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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015 High 14°C/Low 7°C Partly cloudy

POLLEY TAKES ON LITTLE WOMEN
metrolife

The new politics of prayer

History and heritage shouldn't override neutrality: Chantal Hébert IN METROVIEW

GTA mayors hold opposing views on Supreme Court's decision IN METRONEWS

CBC's new q is smaller

RADIO

Post-Ghomeshi changes draw no comment from broadcaster

Q, the CBC Radio show formerly hosted by Jian Ghomeshi, is relaunching next week with a new look, a new host and (sort of) a new name.

The public broadcaster announced Wednesday that Q will be known as q. That's right — the name has undergone the monumental shift from uppercase to lowercase.

Are lowercase letters cooler? Is it somehow supposed to make listeners forget that the disgraced Ghomeshi ever hosted the show?

"Speaking personally, I think it's a ridiculous change," said Queen's University marketing professor Kenneth Wong. "Because no one has shown me a way to communicate lowercase on the radio."

It's unclear how much brainstorming went into the rebranding. The CBC did not return a request for comment.

The relaunch of q takes place April 20 with a two-hour live broadcast from Glenn Gould Studio, the CBC said Wednesday. It will mark the debut of new host Shadrach Kabango, the hip-hop artist better known as Shad.

While the average listener may be perplexed by the switch to q, some branding experts see it as a plus.

"Anything that they can do visually, personality-wise, format-wise, to distance themselves from the gong show that was Ghomeshi is a good move," said Wayne Roberts, chief creative officer at Blade Creative Branding. "I think of even greater importance is that they're trying to make a statement — that the asset, this show called q, is more than Jian Ghomeshi."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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They're boring ... and that's OK

CROSSTOWN LRT

Machines emerging from the depths is a chance to party

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Having completed the first leg of their 11-kilometre journey, the two tunnel-boring machines beneath Eglinton Avenue will be surfacing this weekend in order to bypass the Yonge subway line.

When the mammoth machines make their appearance, Dave Meslin and Chris Drew will be there.

Self-described "transit geeks," Meslin and Drew have started a Facebook page seeking others to join them at Yonge and Eglinton Sunday at 2 a.m. to watch the second tunnel-boring machine make the trek.

"It's really historic. Just to see those huge machines come out of the ground ... it's something I'll tell my kids and grandkids about," Drew said.

The plan is to meet up at Vesta Lunch — a 24-hour diner at Bathurst and Dupont — for a late dinner before heading north.

"It'll be a night of burgers and boring machines," Meslin joked.

Anticipating onlookers, Metrolinx has promised to set up bleachers near the site and will even be serving coffee.

"I don't blame people for being excited," said Metrolinx spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins. "For some of us, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Each tunnel-boring machine is 10 metres long, 6.5 metres in diameter and weighs 400 tonnes. Neither one has seen the light of day since they began work on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT two years ago.

> **There's still that little kid in all of us that really just loves big machines.**
> Dave Meslin

Getting the borers out of the ground is no easy feat, Aikins said, and will require a gantry crane and a specially-designed trailer to carry them east on Eglinton.

Both Meslin and Drew said they want to see the machines up close because they symbolize something Toronto has lacked in recent years: a successful transit expansion.

"In Toronto, we're really good at complaining when transit isn't being built, so it's important to celebrate it when it does," Meslin said.

400 tonnes

How much each of the Eglinton Crosstown tunnel-boring machines weighs.

Top and far right: The first of the two Eglinton Crosstown tunnel-boring machines, nicknamed "Dennis," went into the ground in 2013.
Right: Dave Meslin and his son, Santiago, during a tour of the Bombardier plant in Thunder Bay. "It's important to give kids an appreciation of transit," he says.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/COURTESY METROLINX/CONTRIBUTED

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Hard knocks to Harvard

EDUCATION

Determined woman is a long way from tough teen years

Toni Morgan was accepted into Harvard. "My case isn't as unique as people think, " she says.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It took three days for Toni Morgan to read the email, but when she finally did, she couldn't believe it was real.

Emblazoned with a Harvard University logo was a congratulatory note accepting the 32-year-old, non-profit programming director to the school's prestigious Master of Education program next fall.

The letter brought her to tears. It meant she had come a long way from her days as a teenager who bounced in and out of shelters after leaving home amid instability. Back then, she took on odd jobs and unsteady work to stay afloat, but eventually dropped out of high school with a shoddy attendance record and poor grades.

"I had been kicked out a couple of times, but I decided not to go back because I was embarrassed to admit that I had no place to live," Morgan recalled. "The last time I was kicked out my vice-principal turned to me and said that I would never have a university degree."

That was enough to set Morgan on a path to beat the odds. She found shelter at the Young Women's Christian Association and started cobbling together cash through telemarketing work for a university education.

Eventually, she saved enough to apply to Ryerson University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts for equity and diversity studies.

"I just wanted to get that undergrad degree that the principal said I couldn't get," she told Torstar News Service, noting that it took her almost 10 years to do so because she was "balancing life and a career."

Meanwhile, Morgan nabbed gigs at the City of Toronto's youth justice program, Toronto Community Housing and the Jane and Finch Community Centre. She also began teaching at Centennial College.

Most of her peers had masters degrees and proving herself to them was difficult so she set her sights on landing one of her own. Harvard, she thought, would be the perfect place to do that, but the voices in her head told her "don't be unrealistic," "you don't belong" and "they'll never let you in."

She fought the noise and secretly applied to the school three months ago.

"I felt like I needed to keep it to myself so if it never happened, then no one would need to talk about it," she said.

Her acceptance email arrived last month as she rode the bus. She saw "congratulations" at the top of the page, but assumed it was a teasing message of appreciation for applying. When she tried to scroll down further, her phone wouldn't let her. It was three days until she checked on a computer and realized she had made the cut.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FUNDING

Morgan needs funding to pay for her tuition and housing at the Ivy League school. To donate, go to gofundme.com/harvard-bound.

Kristian Nairn GETTY IMAGES

PARTY

Hodor on turntables

Hodor is coming.

Kristian Nairn, the actor who plays Hodor the giant on HBO's Game of Thrones, will be behind the turntables at the Phoenix (410 Sherbourne St.) Friday for a Westeros-themed dance party.

Dubbed "Rave of Thrones," the evening is the latest in a series of Game of Thrones events in Toronto, including a pop-up clothing shop on Queen Street.

Costumes are encouraged at the event.

The Phoenix will be carved up into seven different sections, each with their own ticket and theme. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit destinyevents.ca.

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Raptors sink teeth into shot-prediction study

NBA

U of T student helps map out makes, misses

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

If the Toronto Raptors are going to be successful in the future, it might be the result of one University of Toronto student's work.

In collaboration with the team's analytics department, Jackson Wang has been mining data since 2013, trying to come up with algorithms that can help make better shot predictions for each player.

"It's about helping coaching staff come up with better strategies in encouraging players to make shot selections," said Wang, a second-year graduate student in computer science.

"We can run through simulations and accurately predict what might happen every time a player takes a shot."

The study crunched data from the entire league, analyzing the likelihood of a make, miss, rebound, foul or block following every shot taken, he said. That provides many suggestions for improvement in both offensive and defensive aspects of the game for the Raptors, he added.

It is a framework that should work for every player in the league, not just Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan, said Wang.

The project was part of the Computer Science Research in Action fair at U of T on Wednesday.

As the Raptors kick off the playoffs this weekend, having scientific data on how to knock down those shots would come in handy.

The Raptors' director of analytics Keith Boyarsky wouldn't go into details about the implementation of the study's results but said it's part of an ongoing exercise to increase the team's efficiency using new techniques.

"It's very helpful for us, as we are always trying to understand the game a little bit more," he said, adding that the findings help them tighten up many small details of the game.

"You may not be able to see a direct impact on the court, but we think that by using Jackson's techniques we will continue to do better."

The work done by Jackson Wang includes analyzing the games of, from left, Blake Griffin, Damian Lillard, Kyle Lowry and Zach Randolph. Heat maps indicate where each player is hottest around the key. PLAYER IMAGES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND GETTY IMAGES

500

The study analyzed about 500 players in the NBA. The analysis considered 1,220 games from the 2013-2014 season.

IN BRIEF

Woman found dead and covered in burns on porch

A woman was pronounced dead Wednesday morning at the scene of a small fire in North York.

Emergency crews were called to a home on Tealham Drive at 5:42 a.m.

A woman in her 50s was found on the front porch of a home with severe burns over her entire body, said Capt. David Eckerman of Toronto Fire Services.

The fire was predominantly on the porch and there was no fire inside the home, said Eckerman.

Police said they believe relatives of the deceased were inside. The circumstances surrounding the woman's death are under investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City to examine cheaper food-truck permits

Food-truck owners could see restrictions relaxed, as city staff are recommending that city council loosen bylaws that took effect last year.

Proposed changes include allowing food and ice-cream vendors to purchase six-month and nine-month permits, as well as increasing the three-hour parking limit in pay-and-display spots to five hours.

Annual permits, which cost $5,000, were introduced in April of last year. Only 17 food-vendor permits have been purchased since the bylaw took effect in May, with some owners saying they find them impractical and too expensive.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Street-corner canvases

The City of Toronto has started accepting proposals for the second phase of its Outside the Box program, which sees local artists paint murals on the dull grey traffic-signal boxes that line our intersections. Officials say the program helps deter graffiti while simultaneously making the street more attractive.

Fifty-six boxes were painted between 2013 and 2014. Here are a few:

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO; PHOTOS BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

1 Queen Street East at Sumach Street

2 Queen Street East and Victoria Street

3 Bedford Road and Bloor Street West

4 Yorkville Avenue

5 St. Patrick Street and Queen Street West

The deadline for applications is May 8. Information on how to apply can be found on the StreetARToronto website or by emailing streetart@toronto.ca.

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Mayors mixed over practice of praying

CHURCH AND STATE

Quebec ruling bans Lord's Prayer before meetings

The mayor of at least one GTA municipality says the Lord's Prayer will still be recited before council meetings, despite a Supreme Court ruling Wednesday that could lead the way to abolishing the practice in Canada.

"I'm proud to be a Canadian," Oshawa Mayor John Henry told the Star, shortly after hearing about the high court ruling. "I intend to continue doing the Lord's Prayer prior to the commencement of the council meetings."

Henry made it clear that in Oshawa the prayer is recited just before the formal meeting commences in council chambers.

He said there is widespread support in Oshawa for carrying on with the practice. "We ask that people please join in the Lord's Prayer or take a moment of reflection."

Oshawa Mayor John Henry says he will still recite the Lord's Prayer before council meetings. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court ruled that a similar practice by Mayor Jean Tremblay of Saguenay, Que., violates the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, as individuals attending council meetings are not free from the imposition of religion by the local government.

Constitutional experts have started to weigh in, saying that a similar complaint outside Quebec would likely lead to a similar decision by the Supreme Court under the Canadian Charter, as the two charters are similar in regard to this particular issue.

Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey stopped the practice of reciting the Lord's Prayer before council meetings earlier in the year, and Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie indicated her council will now do the same. At the beginning of the year, she supported keeping the Lord's Prayer in Mississauga council meetings, after Councillor Carolyn Parrish had pushed to remove it.

"It shows sensitivity to the multi-religious nature of today's population and shows there is a separation of places of work and places of worship," said Parrish.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DECISION

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled Wednesday that prayers cannot be recited before municipal council meetings in Saguenay, Que. The court said in a unanimous ruling that it infringes on freedom of conscience and religion.

SURVEILLANCE

Leaked documents now available to all

Now anyone can search the documents leaked by Edward Snowden revealing mass state surveillance, thanks to a project at the University of Toronto.

In partnership with the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, Ryerson University and the CBC, U of T launched the Snowden Digital Surveillance Archive — an indexed, searchable and accessible collection of all the documents leaked to the media in 2013 by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden that were then published.

Andrew Clement, the U of T professor who started the project, said the archive can play an important role in providing journalists and academics with the raw documents so they can study them, make sense of them and inform the public.

"These stories would enter public discussion and debate," Clement said. "People would be able to inform themselves about mass state surveillance and decide what is appropriate."

Before this archive was launched, anyone who wanted to access the documents had to pull them from the sites of individual news outlets, such as The Guardian and The Globe and Mail, or from a few comprehensive, but difficult to navigate, online repositories.

"Now journalists and academics, or anybody who's interested, can study the document collection as a whole," Clement said.

DEBORAH HERNANDEZ/METRO

Edward Snowden GETTY IMAGES

> **Journalists and academics have a responsibility to study and make sense of these raw documents.**
> Andrew Clement

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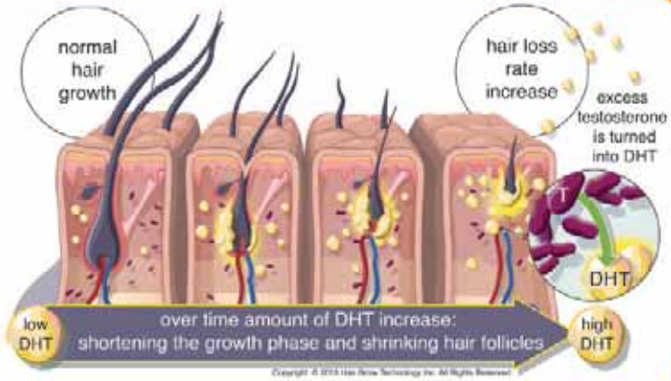
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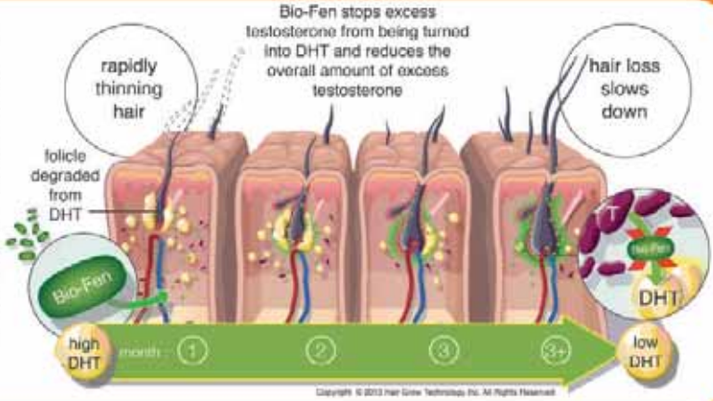
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Centre to serve as cultural, sports hub

COMMUNITY

New facility to include youth lounge, arts room, pool

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A rendering of the Parkway Forest Community Centre. COURTESY DIAMOND-SCHMITT ARCHITECT

Gardening on the rooftop could be one of the fun activities for residents of Don Mills-Sheppard community this summer.

A new community centre set to open in the area later this spring will provide opportunities for people who don't have space for gardening in their apartments or condos, said Michael Ellison, North York community recreation manager.

"The garden is one of the things community members identified as being important to them," he said, explaining that the whole centre was designed with inputs from members of the community.

The centre will help revive physical and social programs for residents, serving as a communal gathering place for meetings, cultural and sports activities, he said.

"It is really exciting for the community," he said. "One other thing we are looking forward to is the teaching kitchen, which will offer workshop programs and services about different types of cooking."

Many summer camps are also expected to take place at the centre, servicing young people in the community for various summer programs.

Among other things, the centre will feature a youth lounge, a preschool room, an arts and crafts room, a seniors' social club, a gymnasium, a weight room, a fitness/dance studio, a walking/running track, change rooms with day lockers, two meeting rooms and a boardroom.

Outdoor multi-purpose sports courts and a swimming pool are expected to be completed later in the year, said Ellison.

Group campaigns to defeat Tories

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Voters in two Toronto ridings are being asked to cast a vote before the federal election to decide who should be the progressive standard-bearers in the upcoming races in Willowdale and Etobicoke Lakeshore.

Vote Together is a strategic voting initiative meant to unite all voters who don't want to see the Conservatives re-elected, run by the advocacy group Leadnow.

The group is recruiting voters to sign a pledge to "vote together" to defeat Conservative candidates, said the campaign director Jamie Biggar.

The campaign has picked 11 ridings where the Conservative candidate won narrowly in the last election, including the two in Toronto.

Anyone in those ridings who has signed up will receive information on the local Liberal, NDP and Green candidates, and be asked to vote on who has the best chance of defeating the Conservative candidate. The person chosen will be the candidate Leadnow encourages progressive voters to rally behind.

"We'll be providing information so they can pick the best candidate — whether an NDP Liberal or Green — to beat the conservative," said Biggar. "We as an organization won't be picking the candidate, we'll be giving the people information to make the choice."

The goal of the campaign is a minority government led by a party other than the Conservatives, said Biggar.

The campaign has been criticized by Paul Moist, the national president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which has supported Leadnow's other political issue campaigns in the past. He wrote in a letter to Leadnow, published in the Huffington Post, arguing that strategic voting doesn't work. "At best, it is a guessing game that tends to favour the Liberal Party and, in many cases, the Conservative Party by preventing people from voting for the NDP."

Biggar said Leadnow has avoided calling the initiative "strategic voting," preferring to say it's about giving people the tools they need to vote "collectively."

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WE ARE ABOVE & BEYOND

Love Art more with these expert tips

ART

Rule No. 1 for the fair this weekend: Take it slow

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The Love Art Fair will be back in Toronto this weekend, giving people a chance to see hundreds of pieces of art from 20 local galleries and 25 around the world.

All that looking can, of course, lead to buying. And, when that comes into play, all those options can be pleasantly "overwhelming," said Love Art director Nicole Milkovitch.

Metro asked art critic and OCAD University professor Gabrielle Moser for some tips to navigating and making the most of the event and others like it.

Take it slow

The main thing, Moser said, is don't plan to rush in and rush out.

Take your time, explore and be adventurous, she said. That will leave you plenty of time to talk to exhibitors about things you like, learning the artist's background and how the piece was made.

Those details can help you make an informed decision about what you're buying, Moser said.

Know the deal

Keeping in mind the mandate of the art fair you're perusing is important, Moser said.

If it's about local and upcoming artists, chances are the works are still original and fresh.

That's different from a contemporary art auction, where many of the pieces have been sold and owned before.

Don't do this

The worst mistake is looking for a piece of art that will match your décor.

Down the road, your couch will probably change but that artwork will remain.

Let your love of a piece guide your decision, and make sure you'll be happy looking at it every day no matter where you end up living, Moser said.

Hey big spender

It is better to set an amount you're willing to spend before you venture into an art fair.

That way, you won't be tempted to look for art that is above your price range.

Some collections also have fixed price caps, so that can help you make choices on what you can afford, Moser said.

Trust your gut

Buying art can be a fantastic way to invest your money, Moser said, so make sure you do it right by buying something you're proud of.

If it's a piece you think you'd like to show off — and discuss — among friends, there's a good chance it's a good pick.

IF YOU GO

When and where
The Love Art Fair runs Friday to Sunday at the Direct Energy Centre. Details at loveartfair.com/Toronto

These are some of the pieces you'll find up for grabs of Love Art Fair. From left, the pieces are by artists James Robert Durant, Laurie De Camillis and Andrew Valko. The piece top right is by Marjorie Campbell. CONTRIBUTED

IN BRIEF

Two charged after human trafficking investigation

Two men are facing a string of charges following a human trafficking investigation in which police continue to look for a third suspect.

Police say that a 17-year-old girl was allegedly forced into the sex trade industry and taken to hotels throughout the Greater Toronto Area, where she was forced to work as a sex-trade worker over about three months.

Deshawn Holmes, 19, and Nathan Turnbull, 19, have been arrested and face charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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T.O. goes crazy for Mr. Modi

Supporters line up to see Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Toronto on Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

BILATERAL VISIT

Crowds flock to see 'cool,' controversial Indian leader

Prakruti Gajera, 12, was at the Ricoh Coliseum to see Narendra Modi, India's superstar prime minster, "because he's cool."

There were some 10,000 people in attendance on Wednesday, and probably just as many reasons for being there, but Gajera's explanation went some way toward synthesizing the prevailing mood: the charismatic, controversial Indian leader, who swept to power last year promising economic revival, is a sensation, and he elicits the kinds of reactions from the global Indian diaspora that you might expect from a Bollywood heartthrob.

Toronto did not break the pattern. The city's Indo-Canadian community flocked to the Exhibition grounds for the first bilateral visit to Canada by an Indian prime minister in 42 years.

Modi, leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has been a divisive figure in India, where he has faced criticism for failing to sufficiently protect the rights of religious minorities.

The PM has faced particular heat in the interdenominational riots that shook Gujarat province in 2002, killing around 1,000, mostly Muslims. India's Supreme Court has since cleared him of any wrongdoing, though the taint of the incident kept Canada from issuing him a visa until last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Modi with Stephen Harper in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

India to buy Canadian uranium

The relationship between India and Canada is now back on track, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Wednesday after signing a number of bilateral agreements, including a deal to buy Canadian uranium to fuel his country's power reactors.

Modi and Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the deal is just a first step toward deepening economic ties, and that the relationship between the two countries hasn't yet lived up to its potential.

"Canada is a major Asia-Pacific power and should play a more active role, including in regional institutions," Modi said.

Under the nuclear deal, India will buy more than 3,000 tonnes of Saskatchewan uranium.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, who was on hand for the announcement, said the deal, estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, would be a boon for his province.

"For an employer of 4,000 people in the province — 45 per cent of them First Nations and Métis — it's a great day for Saskatchewan."

The contract with Cameco Corp. is one of a number of agreements that were announced Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trend Report: Insurance Savings Are In This Season

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Spring is the perfect time to swap out out-dated car insurance premiums with fresh rates.

Alanis Morissette is one of the female musicians spotlighted in a new book by a Canadian music journalist. GETTY IMAGES

Canadian women and their impact on music

BACKSTAGE PASS

'We Oughta Know' launch set for April 22 at Supermarket

Ian Gormley
Metro |Toronto

As retro mania consumes the '90s, teens are being fed a very specific vision of the decade.

Grunge and golden-age hip hop are taking centre stage but artists of the same era featured on a slew of Women & Songs compilations and special-edition rock magazines get short shrift.

We Oughta Know, a new book by Vancouver music journalist Andrea Warner, looks to remedy that situation, putting the spotlight on popular, though critically derided Canadian chanteuses Celine Dion, Shania Twain, Alanis Morissette and Sarah McLachlan.

"They all came to prominence and power between 1993 and 1997," says Warner. "I wanted to figure out if there was more than luck."

Warner visits Toronto next week to launch the book at Supermarket. She picked those four artists for two reasons.

"They'd all been such a huge part of my teenage life," a sentiment echoed by many Canadians in their 30s. They also happen to be the four best-selling artists of the '90s in Canada.

Though she worshipped McLachlan and Morissette, as a militantly principled teen she took issue with what she saw as the manufactured pop gloss of Dion and Twain. What she missed was their incredible work ethic — both were game-changers in their own unique ways.

Her critical re-evaluation is "about confronting your complicity for upholding these systems and values that you hate," says Warner. "Really forcing myself to think about my own awfulness was good."

Wherever your opinion falls in relation to their music, they paved the way for countless others in this country.

"The fact that we have a substantial music industry to this day is in part owed to these four women," she says.

The We Oughta Know book launch runs from 6 to 8 p.m. April 22 at Supermarket, located at 268 Augusta Ave.

Andrea Warner CONTRIBUTED

MORE WOMEN ROCKERS

Analogue Gallery's Women in Rock opens April 30. For the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, the Queen West gallery has put together a collection of images from some of music's most influential female artists.

"It says rock," says Analogue owner Lucia Graca, "but it's a bit of everything."

Included are images of Nina Simone, Madonna and Debbie Harry and a number of pictures shot in Toronto.

More than half of the photos were taken by female photographers, including Lynn Goldsmith, Jill Furmanovsky and Janette Beckman among many others.

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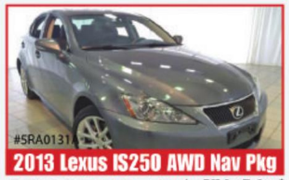

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Diplomat's teen son to be tried as an adult

MIAMI, FLA.

15-year-old charged with first-degree murder

A Canadian diplomat's teenage son accused of involvement in a drug-related shootout that killed his older brother in Florida has been charged with murder and will be tried as an adult.

A Miami-Dade County grand jury indicted 15-year-old Marc Wabafiyebazu on first-degree felony murder charges Wednesday.

Wabafiyebazu's defence lawyer, Curt Obront, said his client will plead not guilty.

Wabafiyebazu was arrested March 30 after the shooting deaths of his 17-year-old brother, Jean, and 17-year-old Joshua Wright.

The indictment returned Wednesday charges that Wright and Jean Wabafiyebazu shot each other. The grand jury also indicted two other young men involved in the alleged drug deal on felony murder charges.

Media reports say Wabafiyebazu, who is being held in juvenile detention, will now be moved to an adult jail to await trial.

Wabafiyebazu's lawyer has said his client — whose mother is Roxanne Dubé, a longtime Canadian diplomat who recently became general consul in Miami — plans to plead not guilty to any charges in the case.

Under Florida law, all suspects involved in committing a crime can be charged with murder if it leads to a killing.

Police say the Wabafiyebazu brothers were involved in an alleged marijuana drug deal gone wrong.

Investigators allege the brothers had gone to a home with the intention of stealing marijuana from a dealer. While the younger sibling waited with the car outside, the older teen went inside.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marc Wabafiyebazu is seen in this undated handout photo. Wabafiyebazu, a Canadian diplomat's teenage son, has been accused of involvement in a drug-related shootout that killed his older brother in Florida, and is facing charges of first-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EXPENSE SCANDAL

Duffy trial could run longer than planned

The prime minister's former chief of staff Nigel Wright once referred to the Mike Duffy affair as "Chinese water torture." It appears the drip, drip, drip of information at Duffy's trial will spill over its scheduled end date.

That could mean many things — including days in court this summer, in the orbit of the election campaign in the fall, or even an extension of the case into 2016. The longer the trial goes, the better the chance that the details of the Auditor General's forensic audit of all senators, due in June, could be referenced.

The suspended senator and former Conservative faces 31 counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, all related to expenses and contracts he signed.

Ontario court Justice Charles Vaillancourt said Wednesday what many in the courtroom had been guessing.

"I don't see us completing our task in the assigned number of days," Vaillancourt said.

The trial was originally scheduled to run until June 19, with a break from May 13 to May 31 while one of the Crown prosecutors deals with pre-trial responsibilities in another case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Report on CBC's handling of Jian Ghomeshi scandal to be released

The findings of an investigation into how the CBC handled the Jian Ghomeshi scandal are set to be released Thursday. The CBC commissioned labour lawyer Janice Rubin to conduct the independent inquiry. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia rebukes Canada's decision to send troops to Ukraine

The Harper government's decision to join a U.S.-led training mission in Ukraine has drawn a sharp rebuke from Russia. Canada is sending at least 200 members of the Canadian Forces to improve the skills of troops in the country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Transgender kids find support

EQUALITY

More parents choosing to accept, not condemn

Charlie, age 9, who was born male but identifies as female, plays video games on Wednesday at her home in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charlie was just three years old, sitting in the tub at bath time, when she looked up at her mom and asked: "Will my penis ever disappear? When will it shrink?"

It was a pivotal moment for the family, and the beginning of a journey that would see Charlie the boy transition into Charlie the girl.

"It was one of those deer-in-the-headlights moments for parents because you go, 'How do I answer that?"' recalls Charlie's mother, Anne Lowthian.

"So I looked at Charlie and said, 'Is that what you want?' And she said, 'Yes, because I'm a girl.'"

Lowthian says she and her husband, Chris Rickert, talked about it.

"We were concerned, because we thought what's this going to mean for her if she truly identifies as a girl? We had no experience with transgender, we had no idea what it was."

Believing it was important for their child to freely express herself, they didn't blink when Charlie, then 4, went to preschool in their rural eastern Ontario community dressed as a boy, but wearing nail polish and pink and purple clothes. She told teachers she was really a girl.

"They ostracized her," Lowthian says of school administrators.

And then there was the bullying by other kids.

"They hurt me physically and verbally," says Charlie, now 9. "They'd give me noogies, they'd punch me, they'd bite me. They called me names. They started calling me 'girlish boy."'

The family, who lost longtime friends over their decision not to make their child "conform," moved to Ottawa and found a supportive school for Charlie, who entered Grade 1 living full-time as a girl.

"It was wonderful to watch," says Lowthian. "You've never heard a girl squeal with delight like Charlie did when she got her first princess dress, and then all the dresses after that. And how much fun is it to go shopping with a child who is so thrilled to be looking in the mirror at a person they actually like … To see her get up and go to school every day confident in who she was and happy to be who she was, it was just thrilling."

Until recently, a mismatch between biological sex and gender identity had been deemed a mental disorder in the psychiatric bible known as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. But the latest version, the DSM-5, renamed the phenomenon gender dysphoria, defined as a persistent conflict and discomfort with one's biological sex.

Meanwhile, Ontario NDP MPP Cheri Dinovo tabled a bill that would ban reparative therapy for sexual orientation or gender identity in those 18 and under and delist it as an insured service. Bill 77 passed second reading April 2 and was sent to committee. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STATISTICS

There are no solid statistics on how many children and adults feel their gender is at odds with their physical sex, but worldwide estimates range from one in 200 to one in 500.

The figures don't surprise Dr. Stephen Feder, head of CHEO's Gender Diversity Clinic. Doctors spend time getting to know the child or youth, and obtaining corroborating information from parents. One study suggests that three-quarters of children who present as the opposite gender revert back, though it's a figure he tends to take "with a grain of salt" because the reasons can be varied.

"We're talking about the kid in the moment, not the kid four years from now. So the issue is how do you support that child where they are now. And you do that as you would for any child, by trying to support them 100 per cent." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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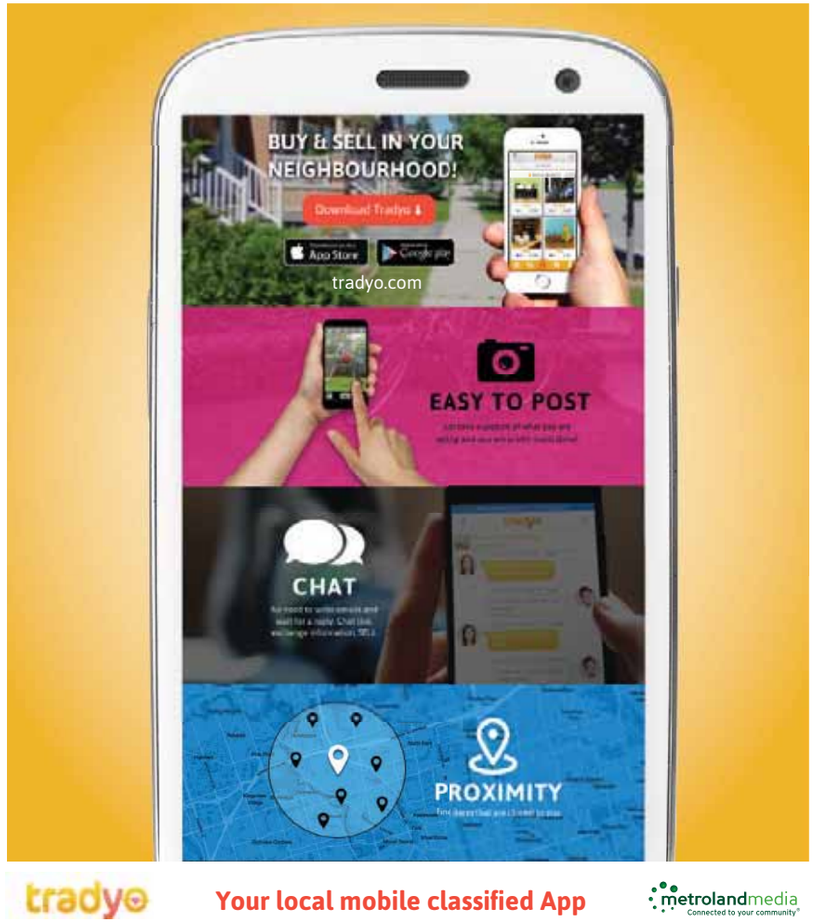

MILITARY

ISIL fighters seize villages in western Iraq

Extremists from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) launched an offensive Wednesday in Iraq's western Anbar province, capturing three villages near the provincial capital of Ramadi in what was the most significant threat to the city by the Sunni militants to date.

The militants' push comes after ISIL was dealt a blow earlier this month, when Iraqi troops routed the group from Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

Wednesday's fighting could also further threaten Ramadi, 115 kilometres west of Baghdad. Nearly a decade ago, Ramadi was one of the strongholds of the insurgency in the U.S.-led war in Iraq. It is now held by Iraqi government forces, although militants control some parts of it, mainly on the outskirts.

In a dawn advance, ISIL extremists seized the villages of Sjariyah, Albu-Ghanim and Soufiya, which had also been under government control until now, and residents said they had to flee their homes. Fighting was also taking place on the eastern edges of Ramadi, about two kilometres from a government building, they added.

In Soufiya, the militants bombed a police station and took over a power plant. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared for their safety, said airstrikes were trying to back up Iraqi troops. Iraqi security officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Around noon Wednesday, the militants opened another front with government troops on three other villages to the northeast of Ramadi, the residents added. An Iraqi intelligence official said the militants were preparing to launch another offensive from the western side of the city, describing the situation as "critical."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants arrive at Palermo's harbour, in Italy, after being rescued at sea, Wednesday. ALESSANDRO FUCARINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mass migrant drowning raises alarms

SHIPWRECK

Mediterranean most deadly sea route used by refugees

The feared drowning of 400 migrants in a shipwreck this week in the Mediterranean Sea — one of the deadliest such tragedies in the last decade — raised alarms Wednesday amid an unprecedented wave of migration toward Europe from Africa and the Middle East.

The UN refugee agency expressed shock at the scale of the deaths in Monday's capsizing and renewed calls on European governments to redouble search and rescue efforts, while the International Organization for Migration maintained that the situation had reached "crisis proportions."

The Mediterranean "has emerged as the most dangerous" of four major sea routes used by the world's refugees and migrants, taken by 219,000 people last year, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said.

The Italian Coast Guard rescued some 140 people off the coast of Libya on Monday and recovered nine bodies, but could see immediately from the size of the capsized smuggler's boat that there had likely been hundreds more on board.

The rescue was made during a five-day surge that saw Italian ships save nearly 10,000 people at sea since Friday — an unprecedented rate in such a short period, according to Cmdr. Filippo Marini, a Coast Guard spokesman. The number is only likely to grow, with summer weather encouraging even more people fleeing poverty and conflict to make the perilous crossing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Turkey lashes out at Pope Francis, EU

GENOCIDE

Historians say about 1.5M Armenians killed

Turkey was on the defensive Wednesday, lashing out at both Pope Francis and the European Union's legislature for their descriptions of the Ottoman-era killing of Armenians as genocide.

Turkey's prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that the pontiff has joined "an evil front" plotting against Turkey by describing the killings of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians as "the first genocide of the 20th century."

Later Wednesday, the European Parliament triggered more Turkish ire by passing a non-binding resolution to commemorate "the centenary of the Armenian genocide." In a quick response, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the resolution was an attempt to rewrite history and threatens to harm bilateral relations between the EU and Turkey.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the First World War, an event widely viewed by scholars as genocide.

Turkey, however, has insisted that the toll has been inflated, and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest, not genocide. It has fiercely lobbied to prevent countries from officially recognizing the massacres as genocide.

"An evil front is being formed before us ... Now the pope has joined it and these plots," Davutoglu said.

He said Turkey was willing to confront its history, but added: "We won't allow our nation to be insulted through history, we won't allow Turkey to be blackmailed through historic disputes."

The non-binding resolution of the European legislature was approved by a show of hands of a large majority. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

U.S., Cuba to hold talks on fugitives

The U.S. and Cuba will open talks about two of America's most-wanted fugitives as part of a new dialogue about law-enforcement co-operation made possible by President Barack Obama's decision to remove Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terror, the State Department announced Wednesday.

Cubans hailed Obama's action to remove the island from the list, saying it heals an insult to national pride and clears for restoring diplomatic relations.

State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Cuba had agreed to talks about fugitives, including Joanne Chesimard, a.k.a. Assata Shakur, who was granted asylum by Fidel Castro after she escaped from a U.S. prison where she was serving a sentence for killing a New Jersey state trooper in 1973.

The U.S. and Cuba will also discuss the case of William Morales, a Puerto Rican nationalist wanted in connection with bombings in New York in the 1970s.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Video shows officer ram suspect with cruiser

A dramatic dash-cam video that shows a police officer ramming his cruiser into a rifle-toting robbery suspect attracted attention across the U.S. on Wednesday.

Adding to a growing stream of images that raises hard questions about police use of force, the video released Tuesday shows the suspect being hit from behind and cart-wheeling through the air as the cruiser slams into a wall.

The intentional, high-speed crash clearly shocked a fellow officer, who had just warned other police to stay back because the rifle was "definitely loaded."

Prosecutors cleared Officer Michael Rapiejko of any wrongdoing in the ramming of the suspect, who survived the Feb. 19 crash.

Mario Valencia, 36, apparently escaped major injuries and now faces several felony charges, including assault on an officer.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NBA

Wife of former Clippers owner nets $2.6M

Donald Sterling, right, with V. Stiviano. DANNY MOLOSHOK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The wife of former Clippers owner Donald Sterling is owed $2.6 million by a woman her husband showered with gifts, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Judge Richard Fruin Jr. awarded Shelly Sterling money that was community property from six decades of marriage, which was secretly spent buying V. Stiviano a house, a Ferrari and other luxury gifts.

"Shelly is thrilled with the decision," said attorney Pierce O'Donnell. "This is certainly a victory for the Sterling family whose funds were dissipated by Donald to lavish millions of dollars of gifts on a conniving mistress."

Stiviano's lawyer had argued the gifts were made when Donald and Shelly Sterling were separated and Shelly Sterling couldn't seek them from a third party.

Attorney Mac Nehoray said he and his client were disappointed in the ruling and would appeal.

The ruling, which is tentative and will become finalized in 15 days if there are no objections to the ruling, comes nearly a year after Stiviano's recording of Donald Sterling making racially offensive remarks bounced him from the NBA and cost him team ownership. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monica Martinez sorts mealworms prior to baking them on Wednesday in San Francisco. BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bugged-out delicacies

FOOD SERVICE

'Entopreneurs' hope to satiate the desire for insect dishes

An increasing number of "entopreneurs" are launching businesses to feed a growing appetite for crickets, mealworms and other edible insects.

These upstarts are trying to persuade more Americans to eat bugs, which can be produced with less land, food and water than other sources of protein.

Inside San Francisco's La Cocina, a commercial kitchen for food entrepreneurs, Monica Martinez empties hundreds of live mealworms, each about two inches long, into a plastic container. She uses chopsticks to pull out dead ones before pouring the squirming critters on a tray and sliding them into an oven.

Martinez started Don Bugito PreHispanic Snackeria to entice American consumers with treats inspired by popular snacks in her native Mexico. Among her specialties are spicy superworms and chocolate-covered, salted crickets.

"The idea is to offer another type of protein into the food market," said Martinez, an artist and industrial designer who launched Don Bugito as a street food project in 2011. "The biggest job that we have to do is to try to get more people to try our foods." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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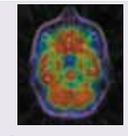

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, April 16, 2015

Rights of nonbelievers count, too

POLITICS

Chantal Hébert

Under the guise of a ruling on the place of the prayer at Saguenay's City Hall, the Supreme Court of Canada has put a mirror up to the face of all Canadian legislators.

The onus for maintaining a secular public space is on them and not on the individuals who toil in the public service and/or who interact with their administrations.

Moreover, neither the preservation of a historical religious heritage nor the notion that a given faith is that of the majority should override the principle of a neutral state.

On that basis, the crucifix is more likely to eventually come down from the walls of institutions such as the Quebec national assembly than kippas, turbans and religious veils such as the hijab are to be banned from Canada's federal, provincial or municipal workplaces.

There is also little in the subtext of the ruling to sustain the federal case for a ban on the face-covering niqab from federal citizenship oath ceremonies.

Wednesday's judgment dealt specifically with the practice of Saguenay's municipal council to open its public meetings with a prayer. The court found that it infringed on the fundamental rights of nonbelievers.

BACKGROUND

The prayer

"God, eternal and almighty, who has all power and wisdom, we are assembled in your presence to ensure the welfare and prosperity of our city. Grant us, we beseech you, light and energy to our deliberations to promote the honour and glory of your holy name and the spiritual and material happiness of our city. So be it."

The immediate consequence of that finding is to force Mayor Jean Tremblay — a devout Catholic who had cast this battle as nothing less than a religious crusade — to abandon the practice.

The same goes for the dozens of municipal councils across Canada that begin their deliberations with a prayer of some sort.

According to the Court, it is not because the text of a prayer is non-denominational that it is non-discriminatory or that it respects the principle of the neutrality of the state.

The recitation of a prayer remains a fundamentally religious act, a fact about which the court had this to say: "... the state may not, by expressing its own religious preference, promote the participation of believers to the exclusion of nonbelievers or vice-versa. (...) A neutral public space free from coercion, pressure and judgment on the part of public authorities in matters of spirituality is intended to protect every person's freedom and dignity, and it helps preserve and promote the multicultural nature of Canadian society.

(As an aside, the House of Commons prayer whose text is identical to the latest version used in Saguenay may be protected by parliamentary privilege.)

The recitation of a prayer remains a fundamentally religious act

This is just the latest chapter in an increasingly heated national debate over the balance between religious freedom and the secular character of Canada's public institutions. In its unanimous ruling, the top court drops more than a few hints as to how it sees the way forward.

Although it refrains from pronouncing on the place of religious symbols on the walls of public institutions, the judgment suggests that their presence — if challenged — is unlikely to be saved by the argument that they reflect a historical or cultural heritage.

That's the rationale most commonly used to defend the crucifix that hangs on the wall of the national assembly.

But perhaps the part of the judgment that will be read most carefully by justice officials and their political masters is the section that spells out that a neutral public space is not one that obliterates religious diversity.

In paragraph 74 of the judgment, and almost as an aside to its core narrative, Justice Clément Gascon writes: "I note that a neutral public space does not mean the homogenization of private players in that space. Neutrality is required of institutions and the state, not individuals."

He adds for good measure: "... a secular state does not — and cannot — interfere with the beliefs or practices of a religious group unless they conflict with or harm overriding public interests."

That amounts to a red light flashing in the face of any government contemplating — as Quebec recently did — the imposition of a secular dress code on its public sector employees.

It also suggests that the federal government, should it want the court to give its ban on face-covering niqabs at citizenship oath ceremonies a green light, may have to come up with a pretty compelling demonstration of the "overriding public interest" served by such a measure.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"Pity the poor science deniers. They're missing all the fun"

A Russian doctor has found a willing patient for his controversial and experimental head-transplant procedure.

A NASA scientist thinks we're only 25 years away from evidence of alien life, whatever that might be.

And that's only last week's news cycle.

We are living in an unparalleled age of science, and we're lucky to be here. It may have taken 3.3 million years since the first tools were made, according to a new finding out of Kenya, but it feels like science today is moving at warp-speed, and we get to witness all the incredible discoveries.

Nearly 20 million people follow the latest news on Elise Andrew's I F—ing Love Science Facebook page, and she herself is a minor celebrity.

Another famous science evangelist, the astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, has a new late night celebrity talk show, part of his mission "to reach people who didn't know they like science. Or people who knew they did not like science," as he told Metro's Dean Lisk recently.

Amid science's rising popularity, there is rising skepticism. Tyson has butted heads with creationists and climate change nonbelievers on social media, fighting "the rise of anti-science sentiment and the rise of science deniers," a group I feel sorry for, because of the fun they're missing.

And of course, science isn't perfect. Government controls and corporations can influence the outcomes of studies. Researchers can be bullied for controversial beliefs, and there is still no equality of race or gender.

Science also gets a bad rap for not making up its mind. Competing studies confuse us about whether wine is good for us, or running or chocolate or even weed. But its messiness is part of what Andrew loves.

"In science, every question answered leads to 10 more. I love that science can never ever be finished," she said in a 2013 interview.

I love that researchers working on male baldness recently found that skin cells can communicate with each other — through a study on plucking hairs. Science answers questions we didn't even know to ask.

But maybe the best thing about science is how much awe it offers up — images of luminous galaxies or a new ghostly species of fish from the deep sea, bones from prehistoric time or stem cells that grow into human limbs.

According to a recent study out the University of California, that feeling of awe is good for your health, in case you needed another reason to be grateful for this age of science.

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Your essential daily news

Just 10% of film roles in '14 were lesbian, GLAAD says, praising Sandra Oh in Tammy

5 DRESSES TO RIVAL THOSE WORN BY SCARLETT O'HARA

A dress worn by Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in 1939's Gone With the Wind is expected to fetch more than $100,000 at auction April 18. We asked five experts to tell us what dress from a film from the past 15 years they think will still be a major draw at the end of the 21st century

HENRIETTA WALMARK/METRO HENRIETTA.WALMARK@METRONEWS.CA

CECILIA TALLIS IN ATONEMENT
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

"You could fit everything I know about dresses into a tiny garment bag, but if I had to choose a future classic gown it would be the green satin halter dress Keira Knightley wore in Atonement. Knightley can wear clothes — she always looks great — but the sleek design and elegant long train make the dress memorable and majestic."
Richard Crouse, Metro's movie columnist

"Every woman wants to wear a dress like that."
Vanessa Driveness, costume designer for television and film

THE OSCAR STUMBLE
JENNIFER LAWRENCE

"I think modern moviegoers have become more enamoured with what stars wear off-screen rather than on, so I wouldn't be surprised if, say, Jennifer Lawrence's beautiful but stumble-prompting Oscars gown will be better remembered than anything she wore in the Hunger Games films."
Ned Ehrbar, Metro's Hollywood correspondent

MALEFICENT ANGELINA JOLIE

"Disney's female villains have great style. Angelina Jolie's Maleficent is no exception. Maleficent's dark and dramatic high-collared gown with its matching cape and horns exudes power, and even instils fear. It's the look of someone who can hold her own, and reflects the way modern women dress. It's less about conforming, and more about

MINERVA MCGONAGALL IN HARRY POTTER
MAGGIE SMITH

MARIE ANTOINETTE
KIRSTEN DUNST

"A Kirsten Dunst dress in Marie Antoinette. Or a Maggie Smith robe in Harry Potter, because she is such an amazing actress. The Harry Potter films and books have a deep resonance with several generations. It is not so much the dress itself but what it will represent when the era and film is seen years from now."
Alexandra Palmer, senior textiles and costume curator

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; HANDOUTS

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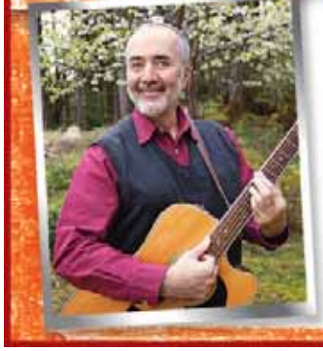

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Thin ban misses the point: Model

CATWALK CONTROVERSY

Size 6 is most common in France, yet brands hire super-skinny

France's waif obsession means its fashion sector snubs many women with bigger body types, but there is no need for a ban on ultra-thin models, said the patron of a plus-size Paris catwalk show.

"It's a cultural blockage," explained Clementine Desseaux, a 26-year-old French model who lives in New York.

The size 10 brunette gets year-round catalogue and campaign modelling work in the U.S., where she emigrated four years ago, compared to rare jobs in France, as American department stores recognize that most women aren't slim, she says.

"In the United States, it's a market apart. You can make a career as a plus-size model. In France, it's not a career — it's a hobby," Desseaux said. "There are no clients."

But, she added, "it's not for lack of demand: There are a lot of round women here. Parisian women are round, too. You mustn't think they are all small and thin!"

The data back her up. According to the French Institute for Textile and Clothing, size 6 is the most-sold size in France, and 40 percent of Frenchwomen wear size 10 or over.

Plus-size model Clementine Desseaux says the practice of hiring underfed models, not a model's BMI, is the problem. AFP

In an effort to rebalance the scales, Desseaux was the star model at the third Pulp Fashion Week this past Saturday and Sunday in Paris that features larger women on the catwalk.

Twenty-four models walked the podium in some 20 labels to show that fashion is not only for the slimmest of customers.

Such initiatives are also held in North America, Britain and Germany, with greater success.

The organizer of the Paris event, Blanche Kazi, said the refusal by major plus-size fashion labels was the main stumbling block.

"They are the ones who could really shake things up with big sponsor budgets and financial partnerships," she said.

For all her morphological militancy, Desseaux is against France's mooted legislation to ban ultra-thin models who are under a certain body mass index (BMI).

The measure was voted on by lawmakers in the French parliament's lower house, and could well become law if the upper house backs it.

Desseaux, like other professional models, believes that the natural thinness of many top catwalk models is being wrongly mixed up with the medical condition of anorexia.

"For me, it's just as dumb to say you're too thin as it is too say you're too fat — it's the same thing," she said.

"The problem is not a model's BMI," she said, adding that a more concrete issue was the insistence of certain fashion labels to hire only underfed models. AFP

SUNGLASSES

Shades of the past ... and future

From top, Tom Ford's Cyrille, Lesca X Faguo's Gabin and Dior's Technologic

The first rays of sunshine have burst through, so the time has come to find the perfect pair of sunglasses to look like a star while still protected from UV rays. Once again this year, there are plenty of vintage-style models to choose from, but future-looking wares are generating a buzz too.

Aviator-style frames

This retro look gets revisited every year, and though brands only barely tweak the ultra iconic shape, they do play with the details (temples, rhinestones, lenses, patterns, materials). Mixing retro with futuristic is a sure way to impress. Beyond Ray-Ban, many others continue to release various versions of this legendary look every year, including Tom Ford with Cyrille ($535), Charles Round ($320) and Marko ($380).

Back to the '60s

Sunglasses will travel back in time this summer to the 1960s. A round shape will be prevalent in models with different colours, decorated with prints or in a more subdued look. This trend also marks the return of '60s tortoise-shell-style temples, as seen in Lesca X Faguo's unisex model in acetate named Gabin, priced just under $200.

Futuristic looks

Certain brands have chosen to present futuristic designs as an alternative to the retro trend. That's notably the case with Dior and the $400 Dior Technologic model, seen in their summer 2015 show, with its pantos shape, metal open-worked frame (available in silver and gold), ultra-flat tone-on-tone lenses and matte black acetate temples. AFP

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The fast lives of female celebs

Amber Tamblyn says Dark Sparkler is partially about "what it's like to be an object for a living."
GETTY IMAGES/FILE

BOOKS

Actress Amber Tamblyn's poetry explores six short lives

Actress Amber Tamblyn writes about dead Hollywood actresses in her new book of poems. But Dark Sparkler is more than that.

"The book is about the lives and deaths of celebrity women in a certain way, but it's also about voyeurism, it's also about projection, it's also (about) ... what it's like to be an object for a living," Tamblyn, 31, said in a recent interview.

Each poem is about a celebrity who died before the age of 40, including Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield and Rebecca Shaeffer.

It took Tamblyn six years to write, with a year off when it became too much for her.

She said it began with a poem she wrote for actress Brittany Murphy, who died in 2009 from a combination of pneumonia, anemia and multiple drug intoxication.

Tamblyn focused on women because "I understood the lives of these women more personally and in a deeper way."

Dark Sparkler is the third book of poetry by Tamblyn, who starred in The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants films with Blake Lively, Alexis Bledel and America Ferrera and on TV in House and Joan of Arcadia. She talked about the book, published by Harper Perennial, her Sisterhood friends and actress Lindsay Lohan.

What impact did writing this book have on you?
Studying your dead peers will get to you. Plain and simple.

Reading autopsy report after autopsy report and listening to interviews.... It's hard not to get obsessed and absorbed into that into the point where you start to lose your mind a little bit.

Why did you focus on this dark topic?
If anything, I wanted other young women to see how much (of) our interior pains are the same and at the end of the day what you feel is what I feel and it's very similar, but often times actors don't really get to express that in a true manner because of the way in which we are promoted or the way we promote ourselves.

Do you think your next poetry will be lighter?
I actually have started working on my next book which will be a collection of love poems, so it will be the opposite. Warm and cozy.

Was the bond immediate among your Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants co-stars?
Pretty immediate and in the way that best friends have gone sort of in and out of each other's lives and sometimes we're really closer with one more than the other and sometimes you don't see someone for like a year and you get back together and it's like immediate and you catch up on all this stuff. It's like we were all raised together, practically. Our friendships feel that way.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMPTINESS

On why she has a blank page with Lindsay Lohan

"I think that she is sort of categorically one of the largest pop objects we have that we talk (about) and we project our own fears onto and project our own beliefs and judgments onto her and her life. It was my way of putting a blank page both for the media and people who have treated her in that way, but also it's a page ... where I get to say, 'You know, I'm not gonna write this poem for you. I'm not gonna put you in the category where everyone else puts you among these women.'"

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BABY BABBLE

ScarJo mum on how to be a mom

New mom Scarlett Johansson is not here to give you parenting advice, and she doesn't think any other famous moms should, either.

"I'm such a newbie at this. I always really hate it when actors or people in the spotlight make giant grandiose statements about parenthood because it's so, so personal," she tells the Australian Daily Telegraph.

NED EHRBAR/ METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

CELEB CASH GRAB?

Mendes met with criticism over contest

A Shawn Mendes marketing campaign encouraging young fans to buy every single copy of the teen-pop heartthrob's new album from local stores is eliciting outrage from child advocacy groups.

The 16-year-old Toronto native trumpeted the release of Handwritten with a #HandwrittenBuyouts Twitter contest, urging his fans to purchase every last Mendes CD from store shelves.

On Tuesday he tweeted to his nearly three million followers: "Go to stores today & buy all the album copies! U can find a #GoldenShawnAccessPass & meet me! #HandwrittenBuyouts. One devotee tweeted a photo of herself clutching a colourful wad of Canadian bills with the message: "I guess all my babysitting payed (sic) off! :)"

Multiple child advocacy organizations raised questions about the strategy on Wednesday.

"I think that's really concerning, considering his appeal to younger fans," said Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood associate director Josh Golin, who called the campaign "unethical."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sarah Polley has confirmed reports she is writing a script for an adaptation of Little Women and that she is producing an Alias Grace miniseries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Polley penning new film script

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Little Women latest project for director

Actress-director Sarah Polley has confirmed reports that she's working on a new big-screen adaptation of Little Women.

"I'm writing Little Women and I'm writing my own film as well," Polley said.

"And then I'm producing Alias Grace as a miniseries, which I've been writing for a long time, and it's now written in six, one-hours and hopefully will go into production either this year or next year," she added, referring to an adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel.

> **"Writing is something you can do while a baby naps"**
> Sarah Polley

Polley, who got a 2008 Oscar nomination for best adapted screenplay for Away From Her, said she's "always writing."

"Writing is something you can do while a baby naps, so it's perfect," added the mother of two.

"But the idea of going back out into the world and making my own stuff, it's not immediate. My youngest is still seven months, so I'm not jumping back on a film set right away. But it's something that I'm excited to do."

On Tuesday, Polley helped announce the winner of this year's $100,000 Glenn Gould Prize.

She and an esteemed international jury panel picked American composer Philip Glass as the 2015 recipient of the biennial prize, which honours living laureates from a variety of creative disciplines for their body of work.

Polley called the three-time Oscar nominee's work "visionary."

"I think he pushed something that was very avant-garde and on the fringes into the mainstream," she said. "I think he, as a result, opened people's minds musically."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STRIPPED DOWN

Leaking nude pics just his style

Be careful what secrets you tell your friends. That's the lesson One Direction member Harry Styles is learning after pal Ed Sheeran gave a candid interview in which he revealed that Styles leaked his own nude photo back in 2012, despite the fact that Styles denied it at the time. "Did you know that Harry leaked that picture himself? He leaked his own picture. I think that's amazing," Sheeran tells ZM Online.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

LEGAL RIGHTS

Cornell wades into Dog ownership fight

Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell says the co-founder of a famed Seattle recording studio has no claim to own the master tapes of Temple of the Dog, which Cornell recorded with Eddie Vedder and other members of Pearl Jam in 1990.

A&M records sued Raj Parashar, who founded London Bridge Studios with his brother, in March, demanding that Parashar turn over the master tapes. The label says it bought the album in 1991.

Chris Cornell GETTY IMAGES

A&M didn't say in its complaint why it wants the master recordings, but such tapes can be used in re-issuing albums. Next year marks the album's 25th anniversary. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pineapples, a symbol of hospitality, are a major decor motif this season.

If you build it, they will come

PLANNING

Growing urban density demands good infrastructure

CONDO TRENDS

Duncan McAllister

The Ontario provincial plan for intensification in urban centres means taller buildings, more people and more traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian.

The question is whether infrastructure will be able to keep up with this pace of growth.

That was one of the main topics under discussion at a meeting of the minds last week.

The Toronto chapter of the Urban Land Institute hosted a gala event for the professional land use community. Guest panellists included the chief planners of 20 of southern Ontario's municipalities.

Jennifer Keesmaat, the chief planner of the city of Toronto, said good policy drives growth in the region.

"We know that better policy can ensure that we're keeping, in a tangible way, the investments that we see both at the private and at the public-sector level, and creating great transit, which at the end of the day is going to be a critical part of a thriving region."

"Better policy can ensure that we're keeping, in a tangible way, the investments that we see both at the public sector level, and creating great transit, which at the end of the day is going to be a critical part of a thriving region"

Jennifer Keesmaat, chief planner, City of Toronto

Plazacorp is a developer with a full roster of highrise projects in Toronto.

"People have started in droves to move back into the city core again, and are living up instead of out," said Plaza CEO Scott McClellan.

"And what that means is that there will be less and less cars on the road in the downtown core compared to the number of people that are living there on a ratio basis."

McClellan believes the responsibility for new infrastructure should be shouldered by all stakeholders, through existing tax bases, different levels of government, "as well as builders that would have to take on their fair share of increased population in terms of usage."

Paul Stagl, president of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, said attitudes have changed dramatically since starting his career at the Borough of North York, which back then, was engaged in the extension of the Yonge subway to Sheppard Avenue.

"With the investment in infrastructure comes potentially, intensification."

The '60s generation of that time was so incensed at the concept of building highrises, said Stagl, that they burned an effigy of then-mayor James Service.

"I'm watching the millennials today.

"It's such a different outlook — the idea of living downtown, living in a small unit, walking to buy this, walking to do recreation," said Stagl. "In much of our urban centres you see the same phenomena — the compact urban form is very attractive, it's all about quality of life," he added.

Rendering of Plaza's 50 at Wellesley Station condominiums. Plaza CEO Scott McClellan says infrastructure should be financed equitably by all stakeholders. COURTESY PLAZACORP

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Many singles and first-time buyers start out with a one-bedroom condo, such as these resale suites. Condos near the downtown cater to professionals with the convenience of a maintenance-free lifestyle. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

What they're a$king

OUR CITY

$364,000

Toronto

Located at the Minto Quantum building in the midtown neighbourhood of Yonge and Eglinton, this one-bedroom suite can be yours for the asking price of $364,900. The unit has bamboo floors throughout, granite counters and an ensuite locker. The building offers a full range of amenities. Listing agent is Alex J. Wilson at Re/Max Condos Plus, 416-996-5181.

$359,000

Ottawa

This bright one-bedroom plus den at 100 Champagne Ave. S., is listed for $359,900. It's a great location for shopping, public transportation and night-life in the trendy Little Italy neighbourhood. The suite includes parking, a storage locker and a gas hookup for a balcony barbecue. Listing agent is Nick Brunet at Re/Max Affiliates Realty, 613-216-1755.

$539,000

Halifax

This suite at 1550 Dresden Row is said to reside in one of the nicer downtown buildings. The Martello is near Citadel Hill and features 1,000-sq. ft. The one-bedroom plus den condo has an open concept kitchen-dining-living room with views of Halifax Harbour, with an asking price of $539,000. The listing agent is George Edwards with Royal LePage Atlantic, 902-221-2900.

$179,000

Winnipeg

Here's a contemporary three-storey midrise within walking distance of the University of Manitoba at 1525 Chancellor Dr. The asking price is $179,900. The renovated suite boasts a designer kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, a four-piece bathroom, wood fireplace and a large balcony. Listing agent is Chris Kenny with Re/Max Professionals, 204-899-4858.

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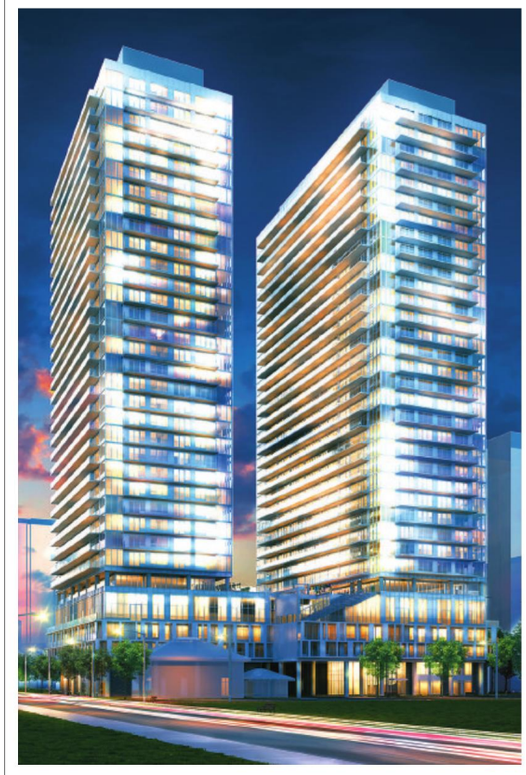
All you may need circles CityLights



Project overview

The Yonge-Eglinton neighbourhood has every necessity imaginable within walking distance of Pemberton Group's newest condo community, CityLights on Broadway. Suites will be characterized by expansive windows with quartz sills, wide plank laminate flooring and quartz kitchen countertops.

Building amenities

The Broadway Club will feature more than 18,000 sq. ft. of indoor leisure facilities. There will be a fitness centre and a sports court for badminton and basketball. Outdoor space will include a landscaped podium rooftop with two pools, open firepits, barbecue areas and a tiered amphitheatre.

Location and transit

This highly walkable neighbourhood is located along the Yonge subway line. Residents will soon benefit from the new Crosstown LRT, providing a transit corridor linking to 54 bus routes, three subway stations and a variety of GO Transit lines.

In the neighbourhood

Yonge and Eg has lots to offer. Local restaurants range from casual bistro to fine dining. The nearby Yonge Eglinton Centre features 75 shops and services, including Cineplex SilverCity and a Metro grocery store. Eglinton Park is to the east and Sherwood Park to the west.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: CityLights on Broadway
Builder: Pemberton Group
Architect: Wallman Architects
Location: On Broadway Avenue at Redpath
Building: Two 34-storey towers with a five-storey podium
Sizes: From 405 to 890 sq. ft.
Pricing: From $199,990 to the mid-$400,000s
Suites: Studios, one-bedroom, one-bedroom plus den and two-bedroom
Status: Registration for preview
Occupancy: November 2018
Sales Centre: Coming soon
Info: citylightscondos.ca, 416-546-6605

ADVICE

Sale by assignment explained

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan

Q: For more than a year, I have been looking for a condo (realizing I can't afford a house) and I have come across a condo for sale 'by assignment.' I don't really know what this means but the price seems reasonable and I want to explore this type of purchase. What do I need to know about this kind of sale?

A: Assignments are becoming more and more popular as potential purchasers are looking for homes based upon our low interest rates but who may not have been in the market a few years ago when these buildings were initially selling.

Bascially, a purchaser who is buying a pre-build condo is trying to transfer the purchase of the condo to someone else at a higher price than what he or she bought it for.

For medium-priced condos, purchasers assigning their agreement are looking at thousands of dollars of profit before they even take possession of the unit (in hot housing markets).

There are too many potential issues to cover in this short column, but you should be aware that problems develop around deposits, monies payable to the assignor (the original purchaser) and when these funds are due.

You need the assistance of a qualified realtor and lawyer who is familiar with assignment agreements.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 MAPLE

Sales event: LIV Townhomes by the Oskar Group is hosting a Model Row sales event on April 18, from 12-5 p.m. View 14 ready-built units at 10060 Keele St., in Maple. Register online to attend.

CONTACT: LIV@OSKARGROUP.COM, LIVTOWNHOMES.COM

2 DON MILLS

Open house: At Dreamtower condos at Emerald City. Head over to the sales centre at Sheppard Avenue East and Don Mills Road, across from Fairview Mall. April 18-19, from 12-5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-492-0001, EMERALDCITYLIFE.CA

3 NORTH YORK

Penthouse release: The Beacon Condos is holding its penthouse collection unveiling on April 18, from 12-5 p.m. Visit the sales centre at 5200 Yonge St., in North York.

CONTACT: 416-226-5200, BEACONCONDOS.CA

BILD Awards pick its four finalists

Bryan Tuckey

Each year more than 1,000 professionals from the building and development industry gather to celebrate excellence in building, design, sales and marketing.

This year marks the 35th year of this annual tradition, with the big night just weeks away on April 24.

I'm talking about the annual BILD Awards, which recognize GTA-based homebuilders, architects, designers, marketers and more for their work in building quality, complete communities across our region.

An international judging panel carefully went through the more than 900 submissions and narrowed it down to just four finalists in 46 categories.

They can all be viewed online at bildawards.com

Among the top honours is the annual Places to Grow Community of the Year award, which highlights the community development that is most reflective of the goals of the provincial Places to Grow legislation.

The award will be presented to the developer/builder whose community represents the best example of "smart growth" or intensification, be it urban or suburban, brownfields or mixed-use.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the annual Project of the Year award.

Judges reviewed a number of new projects introduced into the GTA market last year, many of which have already sold out.

All Project of the Year finalists were also on the bill for BILD's fourth annual People's Choice Award — a category that invites industry professionals, homebuyers and GTA residents to vote for their favourite project in the region.

This year's competition featured a new initiative — a special interactive exhibit at the National Home Show.

More than 85,000 votes were cast over the four-week voting period, setting a new record and confirming an important fact: GTA residents really care about how their neighbourhoods are growing and are ready to get engaged when given the opportunity.

Voting has since closed, but we're looking forward to unveiling the winners.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

"GTA residents really care about how their neighbourhoods are growing and are ready to get engaged when given the opportunity.

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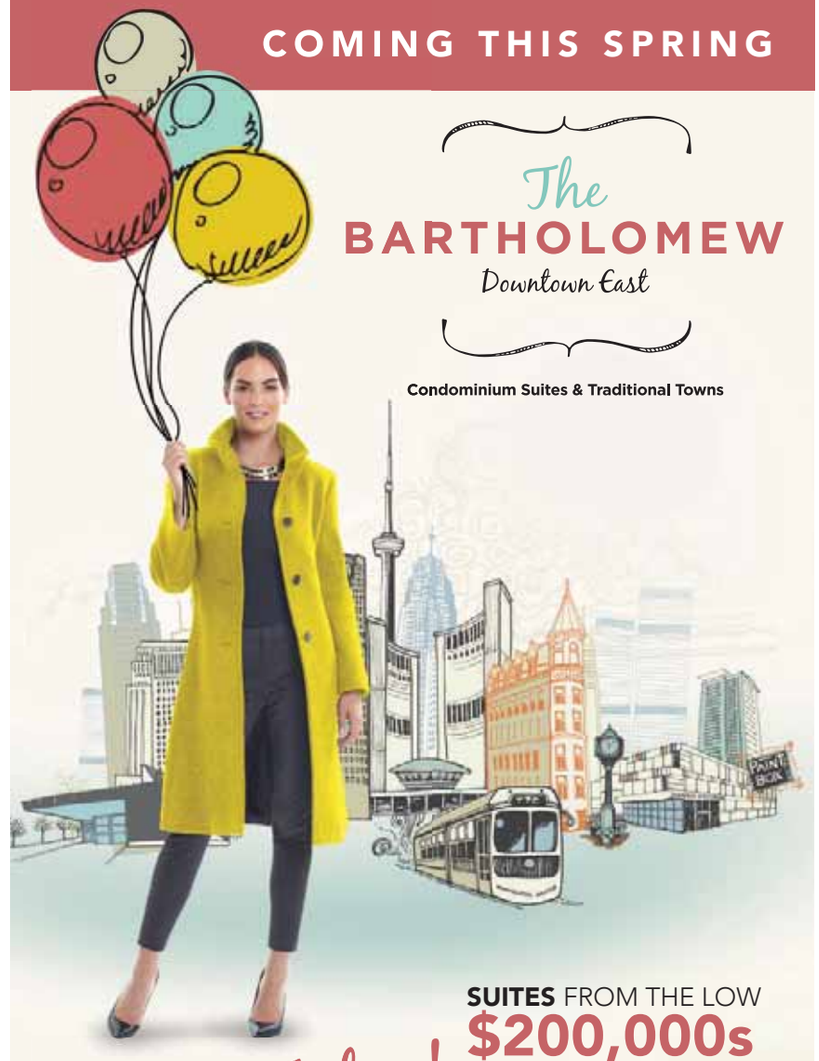

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Lighting, edgy pieces revamp pastels

DECORATING

Designers say these subtle shades are due for a comeback

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn used pastel tones and edgy accents to create this rock 'n' roll pastels' lounge. BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN, SARAH DORIO/HGTV.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After a long winter, the pastel colours of spring look pretty appealing right now. Cheerful pinks, yellows, greens and blues can seriously brighten up a room.

Decorating with these potentially too-sweet shades can be tricky, but worth it.

"Pastels get a bad rap for being super-girly, sometimes being kind of '80s, and for even skewing babyish. But they don't have to be any of those things if you apply them in fresh ways," says designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions.

"Pastels are like Sandra Bullock or a little black dress. They are always going to be in fashion and will remain classic for the masses. I say, use pastels however, whenever, and just be sure to put your own spin on them."

Here, Flynn and two other interior designers — Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design in Los Angeles and Toronto-based designer Meredith Heron — offer advice on making spring pastels work in your home.

The natural light in a room impacts how a pastel colour actually appears, says Heron.

East-facing windows bring a cool, blue light during the day, while west-facing windows bring in a redder light in the afternoon and at sunset. Heron says south-facing windows tend to offer a yellower light.

"My rule of thumb is to avoid the pastels that correspond to the direction of the light," she says.

"So no pinks in a western-facing room or they will look like something out of an antacid commercial."

Likewise, avoid pastel yellow in a south-facing room and blue in an east-facing one.

The names of paint swatches can tell you a lot. "If something has 'baby' in front of it — baby blue, baby pink — be careful," says Burnham.

> **Pastels get a bad rap for being super-girly**
> Designer Brian Patrick Flynn

You're safer "if you see 'pale blue.' The interpretation can be all kinds of things, from periwinkle to a grey-blue."

If you're drawn to a true baby pink or baby blue on a swatch, consider going with a slight variation on it. Often, on one paint-swatch card you'll find four or five variations on the same colour, some very saturated and others with more grey mixed in.

Consider picking one of the greyer, less saturated shades.

"One pastel is really great," Burnham says.

"It stands out and shines on its own."

But the effect is lost when you bring in additional pastels; you don't want the room to feel like a basket of Easter eggs.

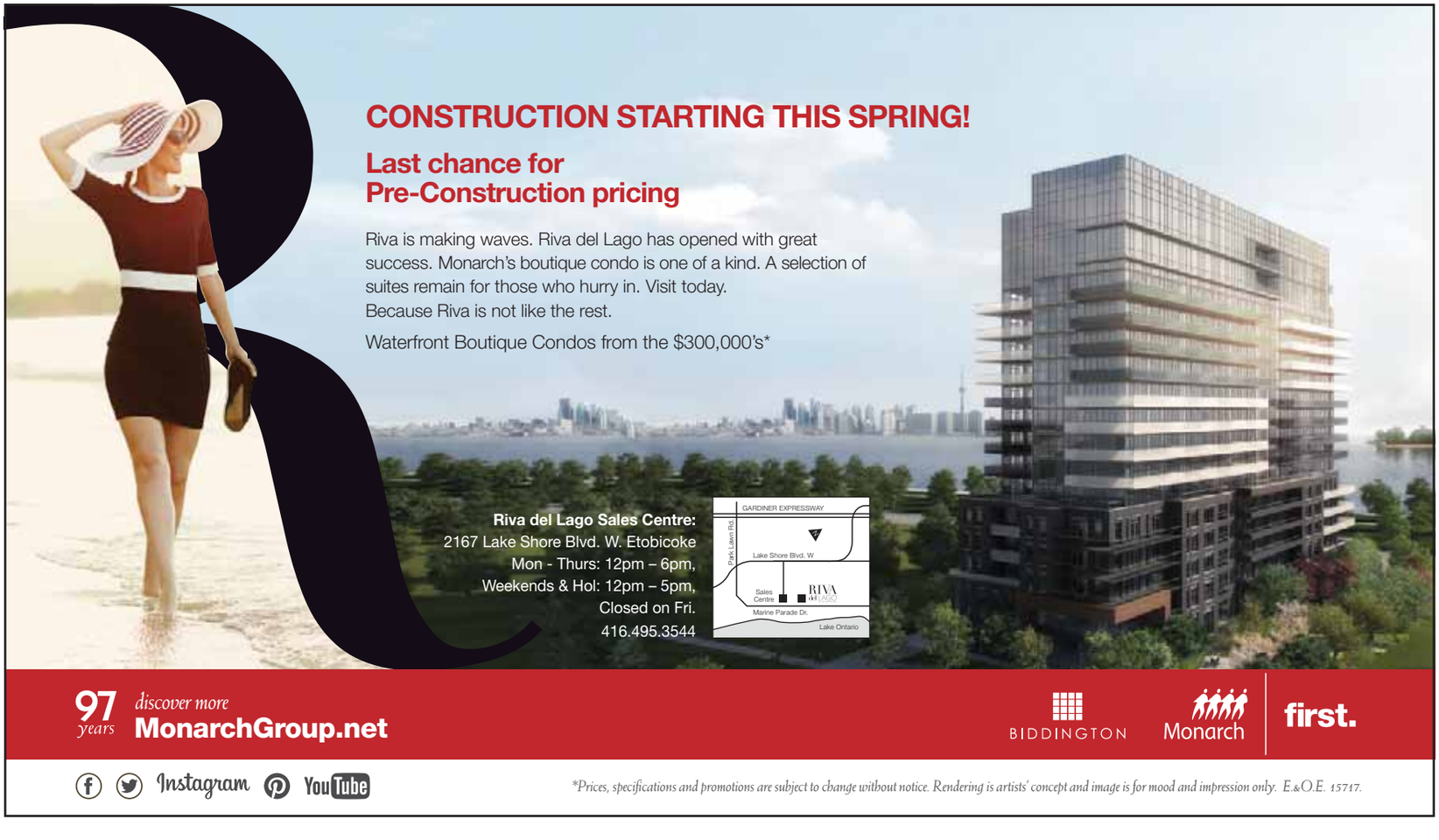
If you're having trouble choosing just one shade, Flynn suggests blue: "Robin's egg blue is probably the most iconic pastel used for interiors," he says.

"Believe it or not, robin's egg is almost like a neutral. It works with almost any colour in the spectrum. I like putting a transitional spin on it by layering it upon itself in different shades and tints. It creates a classic, timeless look that's applicable to all ages, styles and both genders."

Once you've chosen your pastel, it's safest to bring the colour in gently through an accent piece, such as a lampshade or artwork. Or paint your walls a white or grey shade that has just a dash of your favourite pastel mixed in.

In spaces where Flynn uses pastels, he says, "I'm all about adding a ton of edgy elements to make the overall look fresh and anything but sweet."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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In 2015, it's cool to be a homemaker

DIY HOW-TO

Homespun projects have become huge among the hip

Meghan Poole
Metro in New York City

These days it's hip to be a homemaker. Turn to any lifestyle blog or site like Pinterest and you'll find savvy twentysomethings and thirtysomethings whipping up gorgeous recipes and tending to their gardens.

"We're rewriting the rules," explains Brit Morin founder of Brit +Co., an online "destination for the DIY generation."

"Many of our grandmothers didn't have the option to have a career. Then our mothers felt a lot of pressure to invest all of their time and energy in their careers. For our generation, we're lucky to have a choice. It's OK to do both, and many of us want to do both."

For those of us wanting to ace it at work and bake a cake from scratch at home, Morin's new book, Homemakers: A Domestic Handbook for the Digital Generation, helps bridge the gap between plugged-in career girl and domestic diva. She shows us how.

Need inspiration? Look no further than your web browser.

"We have access to an incredible amount of information very quickly — take advantage of that," says Morin. "Just as technology has impacted the way we communicate and the way we buy things, it has also transformed the home."

One project she loves is the wireless charging nightstand.

"I love incorporating technology into the home in a seamless fashion," she says.

Everyone is always busy, but your lack of free time shouldn't scare you away from pursuing creative projects. "Homemaking doesn't have to be about spending all of your time at home. You can add personality into your home with small creative projects," Morin says.

Two time-friendly DIYs she recommends are the etched glass tumblers and the balloon backdrop.

"You wouldn't expect glass etching to be as easy as it is," she says. "Plus, these make the perfect personalized gift."

As for the balloon backdrop, "It's one of my favourite party tricks," says Morin. "Simply blow up a bunch of balloons, string them together using fishing line and hang them up in rows on your wall using painter's tape. Simple as that!"

As much as we rely on technology, Morin believes we need to unplug, too.

"Carve out time each week to completely disconnect and get creative," she says. "At Brit + Co we actually take one day each quarter to learn a new creative skill — we call it Creativity Day. People have learned everything from woodworking to cheese making.

"Modern homemaking is putting your own personal spin on the concept of creating a home and pursuing your interests, and for everyone that's a bit different," Morin says.

Brit Morin runs a website devoted to domestic projects.
GETTY IMAGES

> **"Modern homemaking is putting your own personal spin on the concept of creating a home and pursuing your interests."**
> Brit Morin, founder of Brit +Co.

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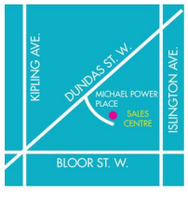

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upgrade skills, pursue interests

SHUTTERSTOCK

With a changing world comes changing and evolving educational requirements. Continuing education helps thousands of Canadians achieve their goals, both personal and professional.

"The world has changed in the past decades," says Marilynn Booth, dean of the school of continuing studies at the University of Toronto. "Students are going to have 10 to 15 careers over their lifetime. If you don't keep up with what's new, then you can't get the opportunities you need. Seventy per cent of students declare they're in mid-career, and 49 per cent say their primary reason for attending is to enhance career prospects.

"They're trying to figure out how to advance in their career."

It's not just a changing job market that's fuelling the interest in continuing education. It's also a change in Canadian demographics.

"We have in excess of 28,000 enrolments and 45 per cent of those are born outside of Canada," Booth says. "They have international credentials and come to Canada with multiple degrees, but they need help getting traction in Canada.

"They don't want another degree, they want compressed and compacted courses, aligned with the needs of the job market to help them work here in Canada."

The workplace plays a key role in developing and maintaining continuing education programs, Booth says. Not only does the U of T regularly reach out to the market to see what's needed, but the school also strives to have active participants leading its programs.

"At the end of the day we have to be totally responsive to the market," she says. "It's not about what we think is right, it's not just about employers, but also professional organizations, it's about value-added programs for students. We have 550 instructors that teach — we look for highly educated (instructors) and those who are working in the world in which they're going to teach."

With a wide variety of students, from recent grads, to those upgrading skills, to baby boomers looking for a new challenge, Booth says taking time to research your needs can help ensure you find yourself on the right path to reach your goal.

"You need to be a good student of continuing education," she says. "The greatest area of growth is in business and professional programs, but we're not just about jobs. Learning is forever."

– Jason Menard

SHUTTERSTOCK

STRADDLING BUSINESS AND IT WORLD

The new courses being offered this summer at Centennial College that straddle the business/IT world prepare new graduates or mid-career professionals to enter the field of IT business analysis and agile/SCRUM implementation.

"The high demand in the job market for such skills has led us to offer these courses in Centennial College, where students not only become job-ready in a short period of time, they also get ready to be certified as business analysts or agile/SCRUM practitioners," says Basudeb Mukherjee, president and CEO of Techno Canada Centre of Excellence, a corporate training firm located in Toronto, and professor of engineering at Centennial College.

The new courses include the SCRUM developer certified course (May), SCRUM master certified course (June), business analysis foundation course (May), and the advanced business analysis — CBAP preparation course (June).

SCRUM is a methodology that is used for managing complex projects.

"Project management has traditionally been a rigid and predictable process where phases of a project are implemented sequentially," Mukherjee says.

"Such approach is known as waterfall approach representative of the unidirectional, predictable and cascading flow of water in a waterfall."

All the courses are provided in a classroom format along with an online module that students can access through web links or through a mobile app using their smartphones.

For more, visit centennialcollege.ca.

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Laurie Taniguchi

CONTRIBUTED

A SOCIAL MEDIA LEADER

It took Laurie Taniguchi a year and a half of steady night classes to get her social media marketing certificate from George Brown College.

Taniguchi is the communication and volunteer manager at St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club in Toronto. She started taking classes because social media had become more important in her job.

"I thought I would take just one course, but ended up doing the certificate. The program taught me a lot about efficiency, but also strategy and content. It helped renew my passion for the job because I could handle my job better."

Today, Taniguchi is seen as an expert in using digital communication and social media, and she leads webinars for others in the company. While she uses social media to communicate for the St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club, she also reaches out to boys and girls in the organization to help them use social media more positively in their lives.

"Since they're going to be on it anyway, we want to teach them what weaving a digital footprint really means and how to present your personal brand online."

SHUTTERSTOCK

Take learning to next level with George Brown College

If social media is part of your job, check out the social media marketing certificate/courses at the school of continuing education at George Brown College. Current research, best practices and hands-on coursework provide students with all the tools and knowledge they need to be a leader in this important field.

"The certificate program gives students a broad understanding of social media marketing with elective options that allow them to go deeper into certain aspects," says Blair Smith, a Toronto digital marketing expert and one of the social media instructors at the college. "We get into specific social media tools and channels and how to apply them."

Social media marketing, community management, Facebook marketing, and social media metrics and email campaigns are compulsory courses. The range of electives includes Twitter marketing, blogging for your organization, and SEO, paid search and web analytics.

Most students are either working in the field or looking to change their career, Smith says. The city core location of George Brown attracts a very diverse group.

"There's a downtown vibe and that makes for a great learning environment."

Classes at the college are held in a lab with the latest Mac computers, and students are welcome to bring their own laptops, tablets and smartphones.

"We use one of the social networks as a community for the class and students are actively encouraged to use it."

George Brown social media courses are hands-on and practical whether you are a blogger and want to start your own channel about baking or fashion, or a small business owner and want to use social media to help drive sales and engagement.

FIND YOUR VOICE WITH CREATIVE WRITING

"I absolutely recommend creative writing courses at George Brown," says Daniel Perry, who has a day job in regulatory compliance, and whose fiction has appeared in more than 30 publications.

Perry took the expressive writing and short story writing courses through continuing education at George Brown College a few years ago.

Daniel Perry

"I liked that the instructor took everyone in the class seriously. He knew we were all there because we wanted to write."

Structured creative writing classes at George Brown provide expert guidance, says instructor Richard Scarsbrook, an award-winning writer with nine adult, young adult and poetry books published in the last 12 years.

Scarsbrook is a good example of the calibre of instructor at George Brown. In addition to being a writer, he is also an educated teacher.

"Someone who knows what they're doing is giving advice on your work."

Classes provide a mix of practice (students are given writing assignments) and constructive feedback (during workshops, the instructor edits stories aloud to help students find their voice and point out what might be getting in the way of a good story).

"Small classes open you up to collaborating, work-shopping and being open to learning what you need to learn," Scarsbrook says. "It thickens your skin, too."

Scarsbrook says creativity is only about 20 per cent of creative writing — revision is the other 80 per cent.

Who should take writing courses at George Brown?

Anyone who wants to make the leap from being an amateur scribbler to a potentially professional author, Scarsbrook says.

Helping students get published is built into the structure of his courses. There is always one class devoted to publishing tips such as manuscript preparation and selecting the right publisher.

"By the end of the course most of us had something we knew we would be happy with," Perry says.

The courses motivated Perry to keep going and he recently signed a contract with a publisher for his first short story collection.

Gain a competitive edge with Sheridan

While abbreviations such as LOL and BTW have become commonplace in many forms of online communication, it is still not considered appropriate professional communication.

Seeing a need for writing courses that address the continually evolving digital media landscape, Sheridan College is offering a number of new writing for digital media courses this spring to meet this industry demand.

"The ability to communicate clearly is a critical skill for success in the 21st century," says Julian Kingston, program manager, arts, media and culture, faculty of continuing and professional studies.

"Good writing skills and understanding how to leverage them across various digital platforms can give an individual the potential to make a huge impact in the marketplace, for a cause, or in spreading their own creative message."

Kingston says these are not basic writing courses, but are aimed at people who already know grammar and can spell.

"These are students who probably already do some writing in their current jobs and are looking to hone their skills to better place themselves for advancement," Kingston says. "Or perhaps they are looking to break into a new writing field or make a lateral move.

CONTRIBUTED

"Basically, our students are looking to these courses to give themselves a competitive advantage and a creative edge."

There are a number of different courses to choose from, allowing students to mix and match and pick the areas that interest them most.

"We also recognized that different media and formats may require a particular approach, that's why we came up with a shorter, more modular course format," Kingston says.

"THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE CLEARLY IS A CRITICAL SKILL FOR SUCCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY."

– Julian Kingston, program manager, arts, media and culture, Sheridan College faculty of continuing and professional studies

This spring, Sheridan College is introducing the new writing for social media course, as well as the new producing interactives course.

The courses all feature a blended learning approach, with about half the class time in a face-to-face workshop approach, and the other half online at the student's own pace.

"This approach gives our students more learning support and lots of flexibility," Kingston says.

Classes start in early May.

For more information about these courses, visit sheridancollege.ca.

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- Writing for Social Media
- Producing Interactives
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- Writing for Screen-based Narratives
- Writing for Transmedia

Most of the in-person sessions for these classes are on Saturdays in central Toronto locations.

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Sheridan
Faculty of Continuing and Professional Studies

ESSENTIALS FOR A SOLID FOUNDATION

"Project management is the process of planning and organizing resources, people and processes and it's one of the core competencies and hottest job areas in the workplace today," says Lee McTavish, program director, partnerships, University of Toronto, school of continuing studies.

The University of Toronto school of continuing studies collaborated with the Project Management Institute to develop courses that align with the institute's goals and body of knowledge and help prepare learners for further education and certification.

In the past five years, the school had 17,000 enrolments in project management courses.

The Project Management Institute forecasts 16 million new project management roles globally by 2020.

Two upcoming project management day seminars provide learners with the opportunity to learn all the key aspects of project management in a short amount of time. Project management essentials Part 1 and project management essentials Part 2 are both three days in length and held during the week and during the day. The first course is in May and the second follows in July.

"The intensive, condensed-format programs allow learners to build a good foundation of knowledge and skills, including soft skills, and effective team work," McTavish says.

"Instructors are highly experienced, classes are small, and you end up with a good understanding of the whole body of knowledge. That distinguishes you in the workplace."

The courses are recognized by the Project Management Institute. Learners can take the courses as stand-alone programs or apply them to a school certificate in project management and to a project management designation if they decide to pursue one.

"What's also important to know is these courses give learners information they can use immediately in the workplace," McTavish says.

Both courses are available as evening courses, too.

For more about the University of Toronto school of continuing studies, visit learn.utoronto.ca/certificates.

VARIETY OF PROGRAMS

Adult learners want to advance their knowledge and skills in the workplace and the school of continuing studies at the University of Toronto has a wide range of specific programming to help.

The school has relationships with 16 professional associations and offers about 80 recognized certificate programs and 630 courses, says Cindy Bettcher, director, academic programs, University of Toronto, school of continuing studies.

Last year, the school of continuing studies had close to 30,000 enrolments.

Rhonda Lenton (vice-president academic and provost), left, unveils the new York University school of continuing studies logo at the recent launch event. Joining her are, from left, Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly, founding executive director, Sabrina Agricola, school of continuing studies student, and Mamdouh Shoukri, president and vice-chancellor. CONTRIBUTED

HELPING WITH TRANSITIONS

York University's new school of continuing studies is all about helping people make successful transitions into university, from university to career, and growth throughout their career.

The school provides programs for working professionals, international students and recent graduates, as well as expanding programs to support non-traditional students to bridge into degree programs.

"Each program is customized to the needs of the group we are serving and to what employers say they are looking for from our graduates," says Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly, founding executive director, school of continuing studies, York University. "We plan to announce many new continuing professional education programs over the next few years."

A unique and attractive feature of the new school's programs is the flexibility and efficiency of the streamlined cohort options. Unlike traditional continuing education, where it could take three to five years to complete a certificate, working professionals will complete programs quicker, knowing exactly when they will start and finish.

Registration is open for the spring and fall programs.

To learn more, visit yorku.ca/continue or call 416-736-5616.

You have options at the Chang School

For working adults who are looking to upgrade their skills or learn new skills, but the decision to go back to school is competing with work, family and other personal activities, The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University, offers an option to achieve these goals.

Formats like the boot camp-style summer intensive program allow students to have flexibility in their education.

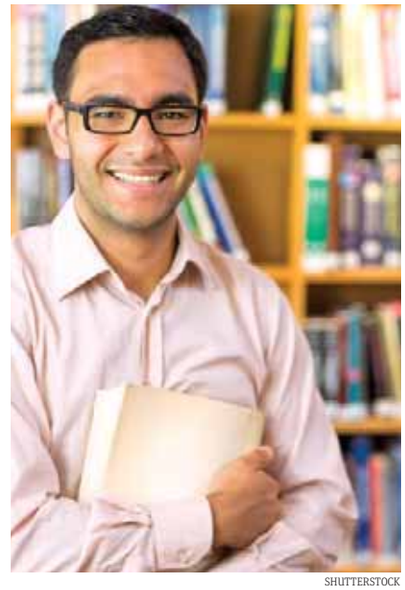
"Adult learners are often juggling multiple commitments and they need flexible learning options," says Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, dean, The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University. "Intensives run during the summer months and give students the opportunity to complete most or all of a certificate in a significantly shorter period of time."

These boot camp-style summer intensive programs run over three months and give students the opportunity to complete most or all of a certificate program in this time frame.

At the end of an intensive, students can apply to graduate and receive a certificate, with the exception of publishing intensive, which requires two more electives for completion.

This summer, The Chang School offers 11 boot camp-style summer intensive programs, six of which are new.

For more information about these new intensive courses, visit ryerson.ca/ce/transform.



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(CPA PREP course M4 Statistics)

Andrew Wu, PhD, MBA
Instructor, Quantitative Methods for Business Management

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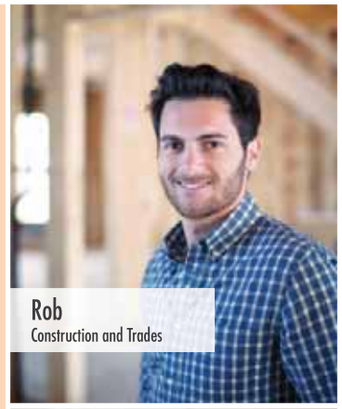

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metro SPORTS

Canada coach Jay Triano expects Andrew Wiggins to play in the Pan Am Games

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Habs call on Flynn for the win

Tomas Plekanec, left, celebrates his goal with Habs teammate Alex Galchenyuk on Wednesday night in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Late-season pick-up scores go-ahead goal against Sens

Brian Flynn's goal was the winner at the end of a wild second period that saw six goals scored and star defenceman P.K. Subban ejected for slashing as the Montreal Canadiens downed the Ottawa Senators 4-3 in the opening game of their NHL playoff series on Wednesday night.

Montreal takes a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference series into Game 2 on Friday night.

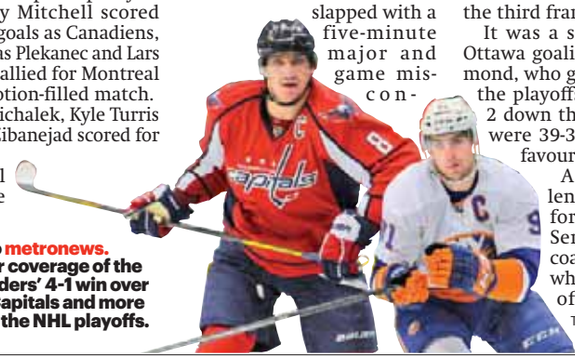
Late-season pick-ups Flynn and Torrey Mitchell scored their first goals as Canadiens, while Tomas Plekanec and Lars Eller also tallied for Montreal in the emotion-filled match.

Milan Michalek, Kyle Turris and Mika Zibanejad scored for Ottawa.

The Bell Centre crowd was roaring until Michalek got credit for the opening goal at 12:25, which was put into the net by Montreal defenceman Andrei Markov. A rebound off the end boards got by two players and Markov tried to tuck it into Carey Price's pads when it went in.

The game broke open when the Canadiens scored twice in a 15 second span of the second frame, the fastest two playoff goals by Montreal since May 8, 1998, with Mitchell and Plekanec scoring.

But only six seconds later, Eller went off for slashing. Seven seconds after that, Subban took a chop at Mark Stone's hands and the Senators scoring leader went down in apparent pain and rushed off for treatment. Subban was slapped with a five-minute major and game misconduct.



The Senators scored twice through Turris and Zibanejad and conceded a short-handed goal to Eller during the penalty.

Then Flynn came out of a corner and slid the puck past Hammond to give Montreal the lead with 2:43 left in the period.

Stone, who went into the playoffs on a nine-game points streak, returned to play, left again late in the second period, then returned midway through the third frame.

It was a shaky game for Ottawa goalie Andrew Hammond, who got his team into the playoffs by going 20-1-2 down the stretch. Shots were 39-33 in Montreal's favour.

A moment of silence was held before the game for Senators assistant coach Mark Reeds, who died this week of cancer at 55.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Islanders' 4-1 win over the Capitals and more from the NHL playoffs.

GAME 1 In Montreal

CANADIENS	SENATORS
4	3

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APOTEX
ADVANCING GENERICS

Raptors end regular season winners of 49

The Raptors' DeMar DeRozan drives to the basket against the Hornets' Jeff Taylor at the Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Dinos' new victory mark is one better than last season

The Raptors capped their most successful regular season in franchise history with a 92-87 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday.

Kyle Lowry scored 26 points to lead the Raptors on the final night of the NBA regular season to their 49th win of the season — a new franchise best, which is one more than last year.

The Raptors face the Washington Wizards in the opening round of the playoffs, with Game 1 scheduled for Saturday.

The players had to wait until the Chicago Bulls game versus Atlanta ended to learn their opponent. An Atlanta victory and Toronto would have faced the Milwaukee Bucks.

WEDNESDAY In Toronto

92	87
RAPTORS	HORNETS

Jonas Valanciunas added 18 points for Toronto (49-33), while DeMar DeRozan finished with 16, and Terrence Ross added 13.

Troy Daniels scored 24 points to lead Charlotte (33-49).

DeRozan took the court before the game to address the sellout Air Canada Centre crowd of 19,800, saying: "We want to thank y'all for being the best fans in the NBA. Enjoy the game and enjoy the playoffs."

The Raptors head into the post-season on a high, after firing on all cylinders Wednesday. They shot a sizzling 49 per cent, and when James Johnson took flight for a huge put-back jam with just under five minutes to play, it put the Raptors up by 16 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blue Jays' Jose Bautista blasts a two-run home run against the Rays on Wednesday night at the Rogers Centre. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Blue Jays sting Rays for a dozen runs

Jose Bautista, Devon Travis and Dalton Pompey homered as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 12-7 on Wednesday night at Rogers Centre for their first home victory of the season.

Josh Donaldson scored twice and drove in three runs as Toronto outhit the Rays 13-11. The Blue Jays gave starter Mark Buehrle plenty of early run support, scoring multiple runs in each of the first five innings for the first time in franchise history.

Buehrle (2-0) allowed seven hits and three earned runs over six innings as Toronto (5-4) ended Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak.

WEDNESDAY In Toronto

12	7
BLUE JAYS	RAYS

Kevin Pillar put a buzz into the crowd of 15,086 by robbing Tim Beckham of a home run in the seventh inning. The Toronto left-fielder timed his jump perfectly and got his glove just over the wall to make a stunning highlight-reel catch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BARCA ON SEMIFINAL DOORSTEP Barcelona's Neymar attempts an overhead kick against Paris Saint Germain's Gregory van der Wiel during the first leg of their Champions League matchup in Paris on Wednesday. Lionel Messi set up Neymar's opener and Luis Suarez scored twice to give Barcelona a 3-1 win that leaves the four-time champion with one foot in the semifinals. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Porto stun sloppy Bayern

Two goals from Ricardo Quaresma in the first 10 minutes helped FC Porto to a surprise 3-1 win over Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Wednesday. Bayern, a five-time European champion, paid for its defensive blunders as it struggled to dominate a Portuguese side which is unbeaten in the competition. Thiago Alcantara pulled one back for Bayern but Jackson Martinez restored Porto's two-goal advantage ahead of the return leg in Germany next week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chiarelli sacked by Bruins

The Boston Bruins fired general manager Peter Chiarelli on Wednesday, days after missing the playoffs for the first time in eight years and just four seasons after the franchise won its first Stanley Cup title since 1972. Coach Claude Julien and the rest of his staff "will remain in place at this time," a statement said. "I don't want to take away anything that Peter accomplished here," Bruins president Cam Neely said. "He's going down in history as the GM that brought the Stanley Cup back to Boston." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex NFLer Hernandez found guilty by jury

TRIAL

First-degree murder earns former Patriot life in prison

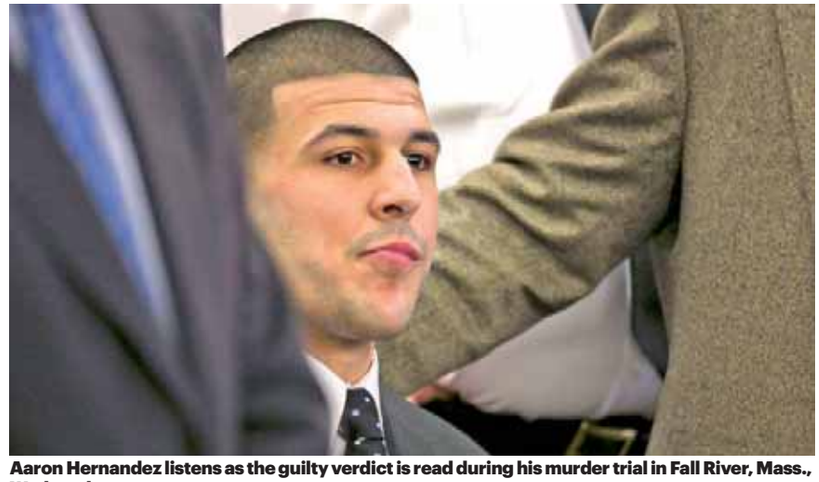
Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for a deadly late-night shooting, sealing the downfall of an athlete who once had a $40-million contract and a standout career ahead of him.

Hernandez, 25, who had been considered one of the top tight ends in professional football, shook his head, pursed his lips and sat down after the jury forewoman pronounced him guilty in the slaying of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper and amateur weekend football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée.

Hernandez's mother, Terri, and his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins, cried and gasped when they heard the verdict. Hernandez, his eyes red, mouthed to them: "Be strong. Be strong."

The former football pro was also found guilty on both weapons charges he faced.

"The jury found that he was just a man who committed a brutal murder," District Attorney Thomas Quinn said after the verdict. "The fact that he was a professional athlete meant nothing in the end."



Aaron Hernandez listens as the guilty verdict is read during his murder trial in Fall River, Mass., Wednesday. DOMINICK REUTER/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

36

The jury deliberated for 36 hours before rendering its verdict

Lloyd was shot six times early on June 17, 2013, in a deserted industrial park near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough. The motive has never been explained.

Police almost immediately zeroed in on the former Pro Bowl athlete because they found in Lloyd's pocket the key to a car the NFL player had rented. Within hours of Hernandez's arrest, the Patriots cut him from the team. The team declined to comment on the verdict.

Prosecutors presented a wealth of evidence that Hernandez was with Lloyd at the time he was killed, including home security video from Hernandez's mansion, witness testimony and cellphone records that tracked Lloyd's movements.

Hernandez's lawyer, James Sultan, acknowledged for the first time during closing arguments that Hernandez was there when Lloyd was killed.

But the attorney pinned the shooting on two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, saying his client was a "23-year-old kid" who witnessed a shocking crime and did not know what to do. Wallace and Ortiz will stand trial later.

Hernandez faces further legal trouble: he is awaiting trial on murder charges in a 2012 Boston drive-by shooting. He is accused of gunning down two men over a spilled drink at a nightclub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

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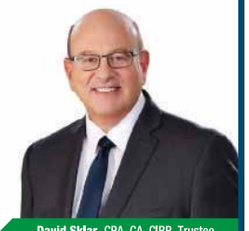
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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with vegetable oil.

2. Squeeze out all moisture from grated potatoes. Add to bowl along with onion, flour, salt and pepper. Make 6 large potato pancakes on baking pan. Spray with vegetable oil and bake for 20 minutes, turning over after 15 minutes.

3. In two large skillets sprayed with vegetable oil, crack 6 whole eggs and cook sunny side up, just until whites are cooked and yolk is still slightly loose.

4. Divide yogurt over potato cake, then add smoked salmon and carefully place one egg over each pancake.

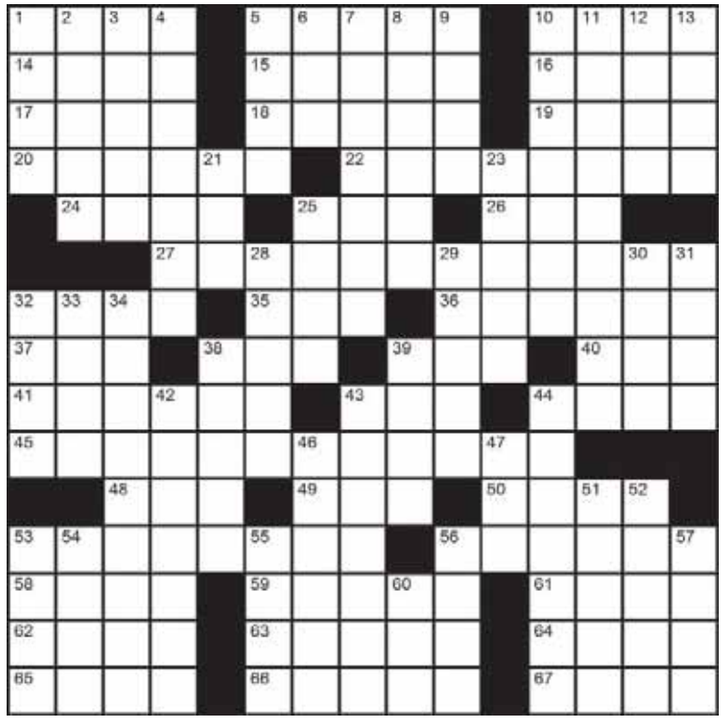
Ingredients
Serves 6
- 4 cups peeled grated baking potato (approximately 2 – 12 oz potatoes)
- 6 eggs, divided
- ¼ cup grated onion
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- Salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp plain Greek yogurt
- 2 oz diced smoked salmon

Nutritional information per serving (1 pancake)
- Calories 158
- Carbohydrates 14.4 g
- Fibre 1.2 g
- Protein 9 g
- Fat 5 g
- Saturated fat 1.5 g
- Cholesterol 200 mg
- Sodium 232 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Stitches-needing reason
5. Chump
10. Plane travel needs [abbr.]
14. Choir voice
15. Leading
16. Canadiens, to NHL fans
17. Vending machine opening
18. Laissez-_
19. Genetic messengers, commonly
20. _ of smoke
22. Formidable frozen formations
24. No, in Munich
25. Tea, in Taoussac
26. Religious robe
27. Newfoundland's insect-eating provincial flower: 2 wds.
32. Answers/fixers of problems, for short
35. Blood-typing letters
36. Magic _ (Mr. Clean product)
37. _ pro nobis (Pray for us, in Latin)
38. Suffix with 'Second'
39. Ms. Babilonia of figure skating
40. Payer's pledge
41. Sleeveless cardigan/jacket alternative
43. Rumer's 2015 DWTS pro partner
44. Ms. Heche
45. Endeavour _ Vents (Marine Protected Area offshore from Vancouver Island)
48. Composer's li'l output
49. Excavated material
50. Home theatre purchases
53. "Where the Sun Don't Shine" Ottawa-born singer, _ Maria
56. Quibbles
58. La _ (Weather-affecting phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific)
59. Wild dog of Australia
61. Old World buffalo
62. Performed perfectly
63. Finished
64. High-pitched barks
65. Put forward an idea
66. Playing marble material, perhaps
67. Ladies

DOWN
1. "Egad!" sound interpretation
2. "_ the Family": 2 wds.
3. Shoulder scarf
4. "M*A*S*H" character, '_ _' Houlihan
5. Pretoria, _. _.
6. Steeped beverage
7. Disney animated movie work song
8. Actress Ms. Matlin
9. Ancient concert sites
10. 1975 Ali/Frazier bout nickname, _ in Manila
11. Body of water between Nunavut's Ellesmere Island and Greenland: 2 wds.
12. Alpiner's ascending aid
13. Leaky balloon sounds
21. Tropical cuckoo
23. Calf-length pant
25. Frozen dessert chain [acronym]
28. Psychic fair card
29. Domain
30. City sign's light
31. "_ Blue" by Madonna
32. Student status, shortly
33. '_ _ Plata' (Montana's state motto)
34. Cause that Princess Diana was involved in towards the end of her life
38. "..._ _ of golden daffodils..." - Wordsworth
39. Weight allowance
42. Movement/campaign
43. Porch
44. "Archie, Marry Me" band from Toronto
46. Perfecting
47. Oklahoma city
51. Singer Ms. Washington
52. Slippery _
53. Start to 'sack' (Backpack)
54. Puerto's partner
55. Concept
56. Encrypt
57. Back talk
60. Understand

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The approaching new moon puts you in the mood to have fun, so make sure you get whatever work you have to do out of the way before the weekend.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The most important thing now is that you make a serious effort to look on the bright side, no matter what may occur. Sometimes you have a tendency to fear the worst but today, tomorrow and over the weekend it's going to be all good.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will find it easier to work with other people today, and they will find it easier to work with you. If there is anything you have fallen out over recently then now is the time to discuss your differences.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Some things are personal and some things are business. Do you know how to tell them apart? Try not to get upset about things that are not aimed at you directly.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you have been a bit under the weather of late don't worry about it. In a matter of days you will be back to your best and looking and feeling like a million dollars.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Yes, you have been living beyond your means. Yes, you have been wasting your resources on things you don't really need. But the fact that you can admit that to yourself means there is hope. Be more responsible as from today.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will make new friends over the next few days but you will make an enemy or two as well. Don't let that worry you though as, on balance, you will come out way ahead.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Get a grip on your working routine and make sure you are not doing things for other people that they should be doing for themselves. The approaching new moon will help you get rid of the hangers-on – of which there are plenty!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to be adventurous and you need to be courageous but most of all you need to truly believe that you have what it takes to be the biggest and the best. Think you can do all that? Then you can do anything. So do it!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Family matters will be even more important than usual over the next few days and you will have to make allowances for loved ones and relatives who get emotional for no good reason. Unlike you they are lacking in self-control.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to see each and every situation you face as a battle to be won or lost. People are not the enemy, not even those people whose views and opinions you despise. Try talking to them instead of shouting at them today.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Watch what you spend today or tomorrow or you may have nothing left come the weekend, and that would be a shame as the planets suggest there will be a last-minute invitation to a party or a social event you won't want to miss.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	6	9						3
3			4					
2					1			
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